

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
WESTERN ZONE, PUNE

IN

APPEAL No. 29 of 2025 (IA No.59 of 2025)

IN THE MATTER OF:-

SACHIN KHOBRA GADE

....APPELLANT

VERSUS

SEIAA & ORS

....RESPONDENT(S)

INDEX

Sr.No.	Particulars	Page No.
1.	COUNTER AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO.3 MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (MoEF&CC)	
2.	A Copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 is annexed as Annexure - R/1.	
3.	A Copy of Notification No. SO 637(E) dated 28.02.2014 is annexed as Annexure-R/2.	
4.	A Copy of order dated 06.03.2024 passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala, Ernakulam is annexed as Annexure - R/3.	
5.	A Copy of order dated 09.08.2024 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Central Zone at Bhopal is annexed as Annexure - R/4.	

6.	A Copy of Notification dated 29.01.2025 is annexed as Annexure -R/5	
7.	A Copy of OM dated 30.01.2025 is annexed as Annexure -R/6.	
8.	A Copy of order dated 24.02.2025 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court is annexed as Annexure - R/7	

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COUNTER AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO.3 MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (MoEF&CC)

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:-

I, Dr. Purushottam Sakhare, S/o Shri Ramdas Sakhare, aged about 56 years working as Scientist 'E', in the Regional office, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) having office at Nagpur do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

1. That I, in the capacity of Scientist 'E' in the MoEF&CC, am fully conversant with facts of the case and competent to swear this affidavit on behalf of the MoEF&CC.
2. That the instant application has been filed against the Environment Clearance dated 03.01.2025 granted to Respondent No.2 (Divisional Sports Complex Executive Committee, Nagpur) by the Respondent No.1 (SEIAA, Maharashtra). It is alleged herein that the impugned EC is harmful to the environment as respondent No.2 i.e. Divisional Sports Complex Executive



Committee, Nagpur has deliberately and malafidely failed to disclose before the respondent No.1 i.e.SEIAA Maharashtra that the construction consists of vegetation, and it consists of 1500-2000 long standing trees which are more than 50 years old. It is alleged that the suppression of the aforesaid fact was deliberate and with the only intent to cut down those standing trees and to remove urban forest which is important for safeguarding environment as the said act of feeling of tree will severely hamper the environment.

3. Instant application has been filed on the following **GROUND**S:

(a) That the respondent No.1 while granting the EC certificate dated 03.01.2025 to respondent no.2 has failed to consider the fact that respondent no.2 has failed to consider the fact that respondent no.2 in its application form dated 29.08.2024 has made a false declaration regarding environment clearance that there is no vegetation and has suppressed the said material facts from the Respondent No.1 for obtaining the EC certificate and hence the impugned EC is bad in law and the same needs to be quashed and set aside.

(b) That the respondent No.1 failed to follow the mandate of EIA Notification, 2006 and without verifying the fact that there exists an urban forest at the proposed site which is essential for the conservation of the environment and hence the issuance of EC by respondent is against the mandate of EIA Notification, 2006 and hence the impugned EC dated 03.01.2025 is bad in law and same needs to be quashed and set aside.



(c) That respondents failed to consider the fact that the full-grown standing trees are essential for public at large as produces the oxygen and improves the air quality which is very necessary for the human beings and at the pretext of development if the said trees are cut down then it will cause damage to the environment and hence the impugned EC dated 03.01.2025 is bad in law and the same needs to be quashed and set aside and it be quashed and set aside in the interest of justice.

(d) That respondent failed to consider the purpose for issuance of EC as the EC is granted only after due verification and consideration for environment which includes air, water, soil and other vegetation directly and indirectly affected by grant of such EC certificate which is against the purpose of saving the environment and hence the impugned EC dated 03.01.2025 is bad in law and the same needs to be quashed and set aside and it be quashed and set aside in the interest of justice.

(e) That the project in question has been categorized as a Building project which comes under B-2 Category which has been exempted from the requirement of EIA report and public consultation. Thus, it was important that all the material facts ought to have been disclosed before the authorities while applying for the EC for the project concerned.

(f) The appellant states that the authorities had not considered the impact of flora, fauna and ecosystem while granting the EC in the present case which is completely against the interests of environment. The EIA Notification, 2006 itself provides for impact on the environment as a result of the



development activity, however the same has not been considered which vitiates the entire proceedings of grant of the EC.

(g) That the action of the Respondent No.2 by cutting of large number of trees for the construction of sports complex is also against the principle of non-regression. This principal applied by the Hon'ble Tribunal while deciding on the legality of a Notification issued by the Ministry exempting building and construction projects up to 1,50,000 sq.mts. from the purview of Environmental law. The Hon'ble Tribunal had observed that the principle of the "Environment Rule of Law" is the principle of 'non-regression that requires that the state does not allow further environmental deterioration unless ' Strong justification for the retrogressive measures are provided'. The appellatant in the present case most humbly submits that no such strong justifications have been provided by the project proponent for carrying out the development. It is also not clear from the documents that as to whether any alternative site for the said project for considered by the State wherein the 1500-2000 could have been saved.

4. Instant application has been filed on the following **PRAYERS:**

(a) quash and set aside the impugned EC dated 03.01.2025.

(b) stay the effect and operation of the impugned EC dated 03.01.2025 till the decision of the present appeal.

(c) grant exparte ad interim relief in terms of prayer clause no.(b)

(d) grant any other relief which this Hon'ble tribunal may deems fit and proper be granted in favour of the present appellatant.



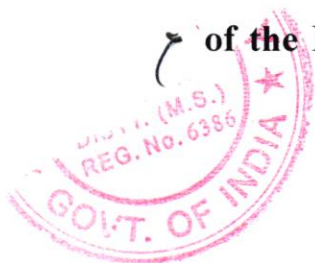
APPLICABLE PROVISIONS:

5. It is submitted that the answering respondent (i.e. MoEF&CC) has issued an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification vide S.O. 1533 E dated 14th September, 2006 superseding the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 1994. The developmental projects in different parts of the country are regulated as per EIA Notification, 2006 as amended from time to time, issued by the Central Government under sub section (3) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act (1986), in accordance with the procedure specified in the said EIA Notification, 2006. The entry 8(a) and 8(b) of the Schedule of EIA Notification 2006, as amended provides as follows:

“8(a): Building and Construction projects - >20000 sq. mtrs and < 1,50,000 sq. mtrs. of built-up area require EC.

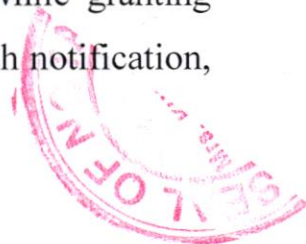
8(b): Townships and Area Development projects - Covering an area of > 50 ha and or built up area > 1,50,000 sq. mtrs require EC.”

The aforementioned entries under item 8(a) and 8(b) are categorised as category B projects under the EIA Notification, 2006 and require appraisal by the State Level Expert Appraisal Committees (SEACs) and approved by the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs). Further, in the absence of a duly constituted SEIAA/SEAC, a category B project shall be considered at the Central Level as category B project. **Copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 is annexed**



as Annexure - R-1.

6. It is submitted that this answering respondent constitutes SEIAAs/SEACs in respective States/UTs under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006 as amended from time to time, which function as per the provisions of the EIA Notification 2006.
7. It is humbly submitted that the answering respondent vide Notification No. SO 637(E) dated 28.02.2014, has authorized the SEIAAs which have been constituted by the Central Government under sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and delegated the powers under the Section 19 of the said Act. Therefore, SEIAA is empowered to take necessary action against the violations, if any. **Copy of Notification is annexed as Annexure-R/2.**
8. That the Answering Respondent Ministry has issued notification vide S.O. 3252(E) dated 22.12.2014 in order to streamline approval procedures for building and construction projects. By the aforesaid notification, certain exemptions were granted subject to compliance with the sustainable environment management guidelines/ safeguards issued vide OM dated 09.06.2015 so as to ensure adequate environmental protection.
9. It is humbly submitted that the aforesaid notification dated 22.12.2014 was challenged by way of Writ Petition No. 3097 of 2016 titled One Earth One Life Vs. MoEF&CC before the High Court of Kerala, Ernakulam. The aforesaid petition was disposed of on 06.03.2024 on the sole ground that the final notification was different from the draft notification while granting liberty to the (Answering Respondent) Ministry to issue a fresh notification,



in accordance with the law. **Copy of order dated 06.03.2024 is annexed as Annexure - R-3.**

10. It is humbly submitted that Original Application No. 93 of 2024 titled Pranjali Karera vs. Union of India & Ors was also filed before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Central Zone at Bhopal with a prayer for making General Condition (GC) applicable to item 8 of schedule of the EIA Notification, 2006 in light of the amendment dated 22.12.2014 being quashed by the HC of Kerala at Ernakulum vide its judgment dated 06.03.2024. In the light of judgment of Kerala High Court, the NGT, vide order dated 09.08.2024, inter alia, directed the (Answering Respondent) Ministry, to either comply with the provisions related to the applicability of General Conditions in respect of items 8 (a) and (b) of the Schedule to the EIA notification or to issue a clarificatory notification in this regard. **Copy of order dated 09.08.2024 is annexed as Annexure - R-4.**
11. In compliance to the orders passed by the Hon'ble High Court and NGT, the Answering Respondent Ministry has issued a notification dated 29.01.2025 (**Copy of Notification dated 29.01.2025 is annexed as Annexure -R- /5**) pertaining to amendment of the item 8 of the schedule of Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, which is as follows:

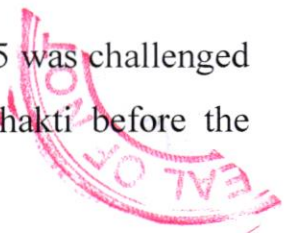
Project/Activity	Category with threshold limit (Category B)	Conditions, if any
8	<i>Building or Construction projects or Area Development projects and Townships</i>	



8(a)	Building and Construction projects	≥ 20000 sq. m and $< 1,50,000$ sq. m of built-up area	<p>The term 'built up area' for the purpose of this notification the built up or covered area on all floors put together, including its basement and other services areas, which are proposed in the building or construction projects.</p> <p>Note 1.- The projects or activities shall not include industrial shed, school, college, hostel for educational institution, but such buildings shall ensure sustainable environmental management, solid and liquid waste management, rainwater harvesting and may use recycled materials such as fly ash bricks.</p> <p>Note 2 – "General Conditions" shall not apply</p>
8(b)	Townships and Area Development projects.	Covering an area ≥ 50 ha and or built-up area $\geq 1,50,000$ sq. m	<p>A project of Township and Area Development Projects covered under this item shall require an Environment Assessment report and be appraised as Category 'B1' project.</p> <p>Note.- "General Conditions" shall not apply.</p>

The exemptions granted in the notification dated 29.01.2025 are subject to the sustainable environment management as per the guidelines issued vide OM dated 09.06.2015 and the same has been clarified vide OM dated 30.01.2025. (Copy of OM dated 30.01.2025 is annexed as Annexure -R-16).

12. It is humbly submitted that the notification dated 29.01.2025 was challenged by way of Writ Petition (C) No. 116 of 2025 by Vanashakti before the



Hon'ble Supreme Court of India seeking quashing of the notification dated 29.01.2025 and OM dated 30.01.2025 pertaining to amendment of the item (8) of the schedule of Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006. Further, the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 24.02.2025 has stayed the operation and implementation of the aforesaid notification dated 29.01.2025 as well as OM dated 30.01.2025. **(Copy of order dated 24.02.2025 is annexed as Annexure - R-/7).**

13. It is submitted that the present counter affidavit may kindly be taken on record and into consideration and the Hon'ble Tribunal may pass appropriate Order(s), direction(s) as deemed fit and proper under the facts and circumstances of the present case.

14. That other/ancillary issues raised in the application under reply do not pertain to the answering respondent. The Answering Respondent seeks leave to make additional submissions, if required, during the course of the proceedings.



DEPONENT

(डॉ. पी. आर. साखरे)

(Dr. P. R. Sakhare)

वैज्ञानिक 'ई' / Scientist 'E'

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

राष्ट्रीय कार्यालय, नागपुर- ४४०००९

National Office, Nagpur-440009



VERIFICATION

Verified at Nagpur on this 17th day of Nagpur, 2025 that the contents of the above affidavit are correct to my knowledge and belief based on official records and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Dr. P. R. Sakhare

DEPONENT

(डॉ. पी. आर. साखरे)

(Dr. P. R. Sakhare)

वैज्ञानिक 'ई' / Scientist 'E'

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, नागपुर-440005
Regional Office, Nagpur-440005

NOTARIAL REG
ENTRY No. 11903
DATE 17/4/2025

SEAL OF NOTARY
Mrs. CHURANA
NAGPUR
DSTT. (M.S.)
REG. No. 6386
GOVT. OF INDIA

SWORN BEFORE ME ON THIS 17th
DAY OF April 25 AT NAGPUR BY
SHRI / SMT / Ku Dr. Purushottam Sakhare
R/o NAGPUR WHO HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED BY
SHRI / SMT. Adv. Arundhati Roy
ADVOCATE, NAGPUR

Dr. Phury
NOTARY
GOVT. OF INDIA
(M.S.) INDIA

NOTARY
MRS. CHANCHAL KHURANA
Nagpur Dist.
(M.S.) INDIA
Regd. No.
6386
GOVT. OF INDIA

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**(Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii)
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
New Delhi 14th September, 2006
Notification**

S.O. 1533(E). - Whereas, a draft notification **under sub-rule (3) of Rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 for imposing** certain restrictions and prohibitions on new projects or activities, or on the expansion or modernization of existing projects or activities based on their potential environmental impacts as indicated in the Schedule to the notification, being undertaken in any part of India¹, unless prior environmental clearance has been accorded in accordance with the objectives of National Environment Policy **as approved by the Union Cabinet on 18th May, 2006** and the procedure specified in the notification, by the Central Government or the State or Union territory Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), to be constituted by the Central Government in consultation with the State Government or the Union territory Administration concerned under sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for the purpose of this notification, was published in the Gazette of India ,Extraordinary, Part II, section 3, sub-section (ii) vide number S.O. 1324 (E) dated the 15th September ,2005 inviting objections and suggestions from all persons likely to be affected thereby within a period of sixty days from the date on which copies of Gazette containing the said notification were made available to the public;

And whereas, copies of the said notification were made available to the public on 15th September, 2005;

And whereas, all objections and suggestions received in response to the above mentioned draft notification have been duly considered by the Central Government;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) and clause (v) of sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, read with clause (d) of sub-rule (3) of rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 and in supersession of the notification number S.O. 60 (E) dated the 27th January, 1994, except in respect of things done or omitted to be done before such supersession, the Central Government hereby directs that on and from the date of its publication the required construction of new projects or activities or the expansion or modernization of existing projects or activities listed in the Schedule to this notification entailing capacity addition with change in process and or technology shall be

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b) , (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

undertaken in any part of India only after the prior environmental clearance from the Central Government or as the case may be, by the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, duly constituted by the Central Government under sub-section (3) of section 3 of the said Act, in accordance with the procedure specified hereinafter in this notification.

¹Includes the territorial waters

2. Requirements of prior Environmental Clearance (EC):- The following projects or activities shall require prior environmental clearance from the concerned regulatory authority, which shall hereinafter referred to be as the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment and Forests for matters falling under Category 'A' in the Schedule and at State level the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) for matters falling under Category 'B' in the said Schedule, before any construction work, or preparation of land by the project management except for securing the land, is started on the project or activity:

- (i) All new projects or activities listed in the Schedule to this notification;
- (ii) Expansion and modernization of existing projects or activities listed in the Schedule to this notification with addition of capacity beyond the limits specified for the concerned sector, that is, projects or activities which cross the threshold limits given in the Schedule, after expansion or modernization;
- (iii) Any change in product - mix in an existing manufacturing unit included in Schedule beyond the specified range.

3. State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority:- (1) A State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority hereinafter referred to as the SEIAA shall be constituted by the Central Government under sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 comprising of three Members including a Chairman and a Member – Secretary to be nominated by the State Government or the Union territory Administration concerned.

- (2) The Member-Secretary shall be a serving officer of the concerned State Government or Union territory administration familiar with environmental laws.
- (3) The other two Members shall be either a professional or expert fulfilling the eligibility criteria given in Appendix VI to this notification.

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

- (4) One of the specified Members in sub-paragraph (3) above who is an expert in the Environmental Impact Assessment process shall be the Chairman of the SEIAA.
- (5) The State Government or Union territory Administration shall forward the names of the Members and the Chairman referred in sub- paragraph 3 to 4 above to the Central Government and the Central Government shall constitute the SEIAA as an authority for the purposes of this notification within thirty days of the date of receipt of the names.
- (6) The non-official Member and the Chairman shall have a fixed term of three years (from the date of the publication of the notification by the Central Government constituting the authority).
- ¹“(7) All decisions of the SEIAA shall be taken in a meeting and shall ordinarily be unanimous:
Provided that, in case a decision is taken by majority, the details of views, for and against it, shall be clearly recorded in the minutes and copy thereof sent to MoEF.”

4. Categorization of projects and activities:-

- (i) All projects and activities are broadly categorized in to two categories - Category A and Category B, based on the spatial extent of potential impacts and potential impacts on human health and natural and man made resources.
- (ii) All projects or activities included as Category ‘A’ in the Schedule, including expansion and modernization of existing projects or activities and change in product mix, shall require prior environmental clearance from the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) on the recommendations of an Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) to be constituted by the Central Government for the purposes of this notification;
- (iii) All projects or activities included as Category ‘B’ in the Schedule, including expansion and modernization of existing projects or activities as specified in sub paragraph (ii) of paragraph 2, or change in product mix as specified in sub paragraph (iii) of paragraph 2, but excluding those which fulfill the General Conditions (GC) stipulated in the Schedule, *will* require prior environmental clearance from the State/Union territory Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA). The SEIAA shall base its decision on the recommendations of a State or Union territory level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) as to be constituted for in this notification. ^{II} “In the absence of a duly constituted SEIAA

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

or SEAC, a Category 'B' project shall be considered at Central Level as a Category 'B' project;"

5. Screening, Scoping and Appraisal Committees:-

The same Expert Appraisal Committees (EACs) at the Central Government and SEACs (hereinafter referred to as the (EAC) and (SEAC) at the State or the Union territory level shall screen, scope and appraise projects or activities in Category 'A' and Category 'B' respectively. EAC and SEAC's shall meet at least once every month.

- (a) The composition of the EAC shall be as given in Appendix VI. The SEAC at the State or the Union territory level shall be constituted by the Central Government in consultation with the concerned State Government or the Union territory Administration with identical composition;
- (b) The Central Government may, with the prior concurrence of the concerned State Governments or the Union territory Administrations, constitute one SEAC for more than one State or Union territory for reasons of administrative convenience and cost;
- (c) The EAC and SEAC shall be reconstituted after every three years;
- (d) The authorised members of the EAC and SEAC, concerned, may inspect any site(s) connected with the project or activity in respect of which the prior environmental clearance is sought, for the purposes of screening or scoping or appraisal, with prior notice of at least seven days to the applicant, who shall provide necessary facilities for the inspection;
- (e) The EAC and SEACs shall function on the principle of collective responsibility. The Chairperson shall endeavour to reach a consensus in each case, and if consensus cannot be reached, the view of the majority shall prevail.

6. Application for Prior Environmental Clearance (EC):-

An application seeking prior environmental clearance in all cases shall be made in the prescribed Form 1 annexed herewith and Supplementary Form 1A, if applicable, as given in Appendix II, after the identification of prospective site(s) for the project and/or activities to which the application relates, before commencing any construction activity, or preparation of land, at the site by the applicant. The applicant shall furnish, along with the application, a copy

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

of the pre-feasibility project report except that, in case of construction projects or activities (item 8 of the Schedule) in addition to Form 1 and the Supplementary Form 1A, a copy of the conceptual plan shall be provided, instead of the pre-feasibility report.

7. Stages in the Prior Environmental Clearance (EC) Process for New Projects:-

7(i) The environmental clearance process for new projects will comprise of a maximum of four stages, all of which may not apply to particular cases as set forth below in this notification. These four stages in sequential order are:-

- Stage (1) Screening (Only for Category 'B' projects and activities)
- Stage (2) Scoping
- Stage (3) Public Consultation
- Stage (4) Appraisal

I. Stage (1) - Screening:

In case of Category 'B' projects or activities, this stage will entail the scrutiny of an application seeking prior environmental clearance made in Form 1 by the concerned State level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) for determining whether or not the project or activity requires further environmental studies for preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for its appraisal prior to the grant of environmental clearance depending up on the nature and location specificity of the project . The projects requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment report shall be termed Category 'B1' and remaining projects shall be termed Category 'B2' and will not require an Environment Impact Assessment report. For categorization of projects into B1 or B2 except item 8 (b), the Ministry of Environment and Forests shall issue appropriate guidelines from time to time.

II. Stage (2) - Scoping:

(i) "Scoping": refers to the process by which the Expert Appraisal Committee in the case of Category 'A' projects or activities, and State level Expert Appraisal Committee in the case of Category 'B1' projects or activities, including applications for expansion and/or modernization and/or change in product mix of existing projects or activities, determine detailed and comprehensive Terms Of Reference (TOR) addressing all relevant environmental concerns for the preparation of an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Report in respect of the project or activity for which prior environmental clearance is sought. The Expert Appraisal Committee or State level Expert Appraisal Committee

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

concerned shall determine the Terms of Reference on the basis of the information furnished in the prescribed application Form1/Form 1A including Terns of Reference proposed by the applicant, a site visit by a sub- group of Expert Appraisal Committee or State level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned only if considered necessary by the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned, Terms of Reference suggested by the applicant if furnished and other information that may be available with the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned. All projects and activities listed as Category 'B' in Item 8 of the Schedule (Construction/Township/Commercial Complexes /Housing) shall not require Scoping and will be appraised on the basis of Form 1/ Form 1A and the conceptual plan.

- (ii) The Terms of Reference (TOR) shall be conveyed to the applicant by the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee as concerned within sixty days of the receipt of Form 1. In the case of Category A Hydroelectric projects Item 1(c) (i) of the Schedule the Terms of Reference shall be conveyed along with the clearance for pre-construction activities .If the Terms of Reference are not finalized and conveyed to the applicant within sixty days of the receipt of Form 1, the Terms of Reference suggested by the applicant shall be deemed as the final Terms of Reference approved for the EIA studies. The approved Terms of Reference shall be displayed on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the concerned State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority.
- (iii) Applications for prior environmental clearance may be rejected by the regulatory authority concerned on the recommendation of the EAC or SEAC concerned at this stage itself. In case of such rejection, the decision together with reasons for the same shall be communicated to the applicant in writing within sixty days of the receipt of the application.

III. Stage (3) - Public Consultation:

- (i) "Public Consultation" refers to the process by which the concerns of local affected persons and others who have plausible stake in the environmental impacts of the project or activity are ascertained with a view to taking into account all the material concerns in the project or activity design as appropriate. All Category 'A' and Category B1 projects or activities shall undertake Public Consultation, except the following:-

- (a) modernization of irrigation projects (item 1(c) (ii) of the Schedule).

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b) , (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

- (b) all projects or activities located within industrial estates or parks (item 7(c) of the Schedule) approved by the concerned authorities, and which are not disallowed in such approvals.
- (c) expansion of Roads and Highways (item 7 (f) of the Schedule) which do not involve any further acquisition of land.
- III “(cc) maintenance dredging provided the dredged material shall be disposed within port limits.”;
- III “(d) All Building or Construction projects or Area Development projects (which do not contain any category ‘A’ projects and activities) and Townships (item 8(a) and 8(b) in the Schedule to the notification).”
- e) all Category ‘B2’ projects and activities.
- f) all projects or activities concerning national defence and security or involving other strategic considerations as determined by the Central Government.
- (ii) The Public Consultation shall ordinarily have two components comprising of:-
 - (a) a public hearing at the site or in its close proximity- district wise, to be carried out in the manner prescribed in Appendix IV, for ascertaining concerns of local affected persons;
 - (b) obtain responses in writing from other concerned persons having a plausible stake in the environmental aspects of the project or activity.
- (iii) the public hearing at, or in close proximity to, the site(s) in all cases shall be conducted by the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) or the Union territory Pollution Control Committee (UTPCC) concerned in the specified manner and forward the proceedings to the regulatory authority concerned within 45(forty five) of a request to the effect from the applicant.
- (iv) in case the State Pollution Control Board or the Union territory Pollution Control Committee concerned does not undertake and complete the public hearing within the specified period, and/or does not convey the proceedings of the public hearing within the prescribed period directly to the regulatory authority concerned as above, the regulatory

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

authority shall engage another public agency or authority which is not subordinate to the regulatory authority, to complete the process within a further period of forty five days,.

- (v) If the public agency or authority nominated under the sub paragraph (iii) above reports to the regulatory authority concerned that owing to the local situation, it is not possible to conduct the public hearing in a manner which will enable the views of the concerned local persons to be freely expressed, it shall report the facts in detail to the concerned regulatory authority, which may, after due consideration of the report and other reliable information that it may have, decide that the public consultation in the case need not include the public hearing.
- (vi) For obtaining responses in writing from other concerned persons having a plausible stake in the environmental aspects of the project or activity, the concerned regulatory authority and the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) or the Union territory Pollution Control Committee (UTPCC) shall invite responses from such concerned persons by placing on their website the Summary EIA report prepared in the format given in Appendix IIIA by the applicant along with a copy of the application in the prescribed form, within seven days of the receipt of a written request for arranging the public hearing. Confidential information including non-disclosable or legally privileged information involving Intellectual Property Right, source specified in the application shall not be placed on the web site. The regulatory authority concerned may also use other appropriate media for ensuring wide publicity about the project or activity. The regulatory authority shall, however, make available on a written request from any concerned person the Draft EIA report for inspection at a notified place during normal office hours till the date of the public hearing. All the responses received as part of this public consultation process shall be forwarded to the applicant through the quickest available means.
- (vii) After completion of the public consultation, the applicant shall address all the material environmental concerns expressed during this process, and make appropriate changes in the draft EIA and EMP. The final EIA report, so prepared, shall be submitted by the applicant to the concerned regulatory authority for appraisal. The applicant may alternatively submit a supplementary report to draft EIA and EMP addressing all the concerns expressed during the public consultation.

IV. Stage (4) - Appraisal:

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

- (i) Appraisal means the detailed scrutiny by the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee of the application and other documents like the Final EIA report, outcome of the public consultations including public hearing proceedings, submitted by the applicant to the regulatory authority concerned for grant of environmental clearance. This appraisal shall be made by Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned in a transparent manner in a proceeding to which the applicant shall be invited for furnishing necessary clarifications in person or through an authorized representative. On conclusion of this proceeding, the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned shall make categorical recommendations to the regulatory authority concerned either for grant of prior environmental clearance on stipulated terms and conditions, or rejection of the application for prior environmental clearance, together with reasons for the same.
- (ii) The appraisal of all projects or activities which are not required to undergo public consultation, or submit an Environment Impact Assessment report, shall be carried out on the basis of the prescribed application Form 1 and Form 1A as applicable, any other relevant validated information available and the site visit wherever the same is considered as necessary by the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned.
- (iii) The appraisal of an application shall be completed by the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned within sixty days of the receipt of the final Environment Impact Assessment report and other documents or the receipt of Form 1 and Form 1 A, where public consultation is not necessary and the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee shall be placed before the competent authority for a final decision within the next fifteen days. The prescribed procedure for appraisal is given in Appendix V ;

7(ii). Prior Environmental Clearance (EC) process for Expansion or Modernization or Change of product mix in existing projects:

All applications seeking prior environmental clearance for expansion with increase in the production capacity beyond the capacity for which prior environmental clearance has been granted under this notification or with increase in either lease area or production capacity in the case of mining projects or for the modernization of an existing unit with increase in

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

the total production capacity beyond the threshold limit prescribed in the Schedule to this notification through change in process and or technology or involving a change in the product –mix shall be made in Form I and they shall be considered by the concerned Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee within sixty days, who will decide on the due diligence necessary including preparation of EIA and public consultations and the application shall be appraised accordingly for grant of environmental clearance.

8. Grant or Rejection of Prior Environmental Clearance (EC):

- (i) The regulatory authority shall consider the recommendations of the EAC or SEAC concerned and convey its decision to the applicant within forty five days of the receipt of the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned or in other words within one hundred and five days of the receipt of the final Environment Impact Assessment Report, and where Environment Impact Assessment is not required, within one hundred and five days of the receipt of the complete application with requisite documents, except as provided below.
- (ii) The regulatory authority shall normally accept the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned. In cases where it disagrees with the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned, the regulatory authority shall request reconsideration by the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned within forty five days of the receipt of the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned while stating the reasons for the disagreement. An intimation of this decision shall be simultaneously conveyed to the applicant. The Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned, in turn, shall consider the observations of the regulatory authority and furnish its views on the same within a further period of sixty days. The decision of the regulatory authority after considering the views of the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned shall be final and conveyed to the applicant by the regulatory authority concerned within the next thirty days.
- (iii) In the event that the decision of the regulatory authority is not communicated to the applicant within the period specified in sub-paragraphs (i) or (ii) above, as applicable, the

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

applicant may proceed as if the environment clearance sought for has been granted or denied by the regulatory authority in terms of the final recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned.

- (iv) On expiry of the period specified for decision by the regulatory authority under paragraph (i) and (ii) above, as applicable, the decision of the regulatory authority, and the final recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned shall be public documents.
- (v) Clearances from other regulatory bodies or authorities shall not be required prior to receipt of applications for prior environmental clearance of projects or activities, or screening, or scoping, or appraisal, or decision by the regulatory authority concerned, unless any of these is sequentially dependent on such clearance either due to a requirement of law, or for necessary technical reasons.
- (vi) Deliberate concealment and/or submission of false or misleading information or data which is material to screening or scoping or appraisal or decision on the application shall make the application liable for rejection, and cancellation of prior environmental clearance granted on that basis. Rejection of an application or cancellation of a prior environmental clearance already granted, on such ground, shall be decided by the regulatory authority, after giving a personal hearing to the applicant, and following the principles of natural justice.

9. Validity of Environmental Clearance (EC):

The "Validity of Environmental Clearance" is meant the period from which a prior environmental clearance is granted by the regulatory authority, or may be presumed by the applicant to have been granted under sub paragraph (iv) of paragraph 7 above, to the start of production operations by the project or activity, or completion of all construction operations in case of construction projects (item 8 of the Schedule), to which the application for prior environmental clearance refers. The prior environmental clearance granted for a project or activity shall be valid for a period of ten years in the case of River Valley projects (item 1(c) of the Schedule), project life as estimated by Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee subject to a maximum of thirty years for mining projects and five years in the case of all other projects and activities. However, in the case of Area Development projects and Townships [item 8(b)], the validity

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

period shall be limited only to such activities as may be the responsibility of the applicant as a developer. This period of validity may be extended by the regulatory authority concerned by a maximum period of five years provided an application is made to the regulatory authority by the applicant within the validity period, together with an updated Form 1, and Supplementary Form 1A, for Construction projects or activities (item 8 of the Schedule). In this regard the regulatory authority may also consult the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee as the case may be.

10. Post Environmental Clearance Monitoring:

- ^{IV} (i)(a) In respect of Category 'A' project, it shall be mandatory for the project proponent to make public the environment clearance granted for their project along with the environmental conditions and safeguards at their cost by prominently advertising it at least in two local newspapers of the district or State where the project is located and in addition, this shall also be displayed in the project proponent's website permanently.
- (b) In respect of Category 'B' projects, irrespective of its clearance by MoEF / SEIAA, the project proponent shall prominently advertise in the newspapers indicating that the project has been accorded environment clearance and the details of the MoEF website where it is displayed.
- (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests and the State/Union Territory Level Environmental Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs), as the case may be, shall also place the environmental clearance in the public domain on Governmental portal.
- (d) The copies of the environmental clearance shall be submitted by the project proponents to the Heads of local bodies, Panchayats and Municipal Bodies in addition to the relevant offices of the Government who in turn has to display the same for 30 days from the date of receipt.”;
- ^{IV} (ii) It shall be mandatory for the project management to submit half-yearly compliance reports in respect of the stipulated prior environmental clearance terms and conditions in hard and soft copies to the regulatory authority concerned, on 1st June and 1st December of each calendar year.
- ^{IV} (iii) All such compliance reports submitted by the project management shall be public documents. Copies of the same shall be given to any person on application to the

concerned regulatory authority. The latest such compliance report shall also be displayed on the web site of the concerned regulatory authority.

11. Transferability of Environmental Clearance (EC):

A prior environmental clearance granted for a specific project or activity to an applicant may be transferred during its validity to another legal person entitled to undertake the project or activity on application by the transferor, or by the transferee with a written “no objection” by the transferor, to, and by the regulatory authority concerned, on the same terms and conditions under which the prior environmental clearance was initially granted, and for the same validity period. No reference to the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned is necessary in such cases.

12. Operation of EIA Notification, 1994, till disposal of pending cases:

From the date of final publication of this notification the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) notification number S.O.60 (E) dated 27th January, 1994 is hereby superseded, except in suppression of the things done or omitted to be done before such suppression to the extent that in case of all or some types of applications made for prior environmental clearance and pending on the date of final publication of this notification, the Central Government may relax any one or all provisions of this notification except the list of the projects or activities requiring prior environmental clearance in Schedule I , or continue operation of some or all provisions of the said notification, for a period not exceeding one year from the date of issue of this notification.

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

SCHEDULE

(See paragraph 2 and 7)

LIST OF PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES REQUIRING PRIOR ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

Project or Activity		Category with threshold limit		Conditions if any
		A	B	
1		Mining, extraction of natural resources and power generation (for a specified production capacity)		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
^v 1(a)	(i) Mining of minerals. (ii) Slurry pipelines (coal lignite and other ores) passing through national parks / sanctuaries / coral reefs, ecologically sensitive areas.	≥ 50 ha. of mining lease area in respect of non-coal mine lease. > 150 ha of mining lease area in respect of coal mine lease. Asbestos mining irrespective of mining area All projects.	<50 ha ≥ 5 ha .of mining lease area in respect of non-coal mine lease. ≤ 150 ha ≥ 5 ha of mining lease area in respect of coal mine lease.	General Condition shall apply Note: Mineral prospecting is exempted.”;
1(b)	Offshore and onshore oil and gas exploration, development & production	All projects		Note Exploration Surveys (not involving drilling) are exempted provided the concession areas have got previous clearance for physical survey
1(c)	River Valley projects	(i) ≥ 50 MW hydroelectric power generation; (ii) ≥ 10,000 ha. of culturable command area	(i) < 50 MW ≥ 25 MW hydroelectric power generation; (ii) < 10,000 ha. of culturable command area	^v “General Condition shall apply. Note: Irrigation projects not involving submergence or inter-state domain shall be appraised by the SEIAA as Category ‘B’ Projects.”;

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1(d)	Thermal Power Plants	^v ≥ 500 MW (coal / lignite / naphtha & gas based); ≥ 50 MW (Pet coke diesel and all other fuels including refinery residual oil waste except biomass); ≥ 20 MW (based on biomass or non hazardous municipal waste as fuel).”;	< 500 MW (coal / lignite / naphtha & gas based); < 50 MW ≥ 5MW (Pet coke, diesel and all other fuels including refinery residual oil waste except biomass); ≥ 20 MW > 15 MW (based on biomass or non hazardous municipal waste as fuel).”;	^v “General Condition shall apply. Note: (i) Power plant up to 15 MW, based on biomass and using auxiliary fuel such as coal / lignite / petroleum products up to 15% are exempt. (ii) Power plant up to 15 MW, based on non-hazardous municipal waste and using auxiliary fuel such as coal / lignite / petroleum products up to 15% are exempt. (iii) Power plants using waste heat boiler without any auxiliary fuel are exempt.”;
1(e)	Nuclear power projects and processing of nuclear fuel	All projects		
2		Primary Processing		
2(a)	Coal washeries	≥ 1 million ton/annum throughput of coal	<1million ton/annum throughput of coal	General Condition shall apply (If located within mining area the proposal shall be appraised together with the mining proposal)
2 (b)	Mineral beneficiation	≥ 0.1million ton/annum mineral throughput	< 0.1million ton/annum mineral throughput	General Condition shall apply (Mining proposal with Mineral beneficiation shall be appraised together for grant of clearance)

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

3				
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
3(a)	Metallurgical industries (ferrous & non ferrous)	a) Primary metallurgical industry All projects b) Sponge iron manufacturing ≥ 200 TPD c) Secondary metallurgical processing industry All toxic and heavy metal producing units $\geq 20,000$ tonnes /annum	Sponge iron manufacturing <200TPD Secondary metallurgical processing industry i.) All toxic and heavy metal producing units <20,000 tonnes /annum ii.) All other non –toxic secondary metallurgical processing industries >5000 tonnes/annum	^v “General condition shall apply. Note: (i) The recycling industrial units registered under the HSM Rules, are exempted. (ii) In case of secondary metallurgical processing industrial units, those projects involving operation of furnaces only such as induction and electrical arc furnace, submerged arc furnace, and cupola with capacity more than 30,000 tonnes per annum (TPA) would require environmental clearance. (iii) Plant / units other than power plants (given against entry no. 1(d) of the schedule), based on municipal solid waste (non-hazardous) are exempted.”
3(b)	Cement plants	≥ 1.0 million tonnes/annum production capacity	<1.0 million tonnes/annum production capacity. All Stand alone grinding units	General Condition shall apply
4				
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
4(a)	Petroleum refining industry	All projects	-	-
4(b)	Coke oven plants	$\geq 2,50,000$ tonnes/annum	<2,50,000 & $\geq 25,000$ tonnes/annum	^v “General Condition shall apply.”
4(c)	Asbestos milling and asbestos based products	All projects	-	-

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
4(d)	Chlor-alkali industry	≥300 TPD production Capacity or a unit located out side the notified industrial area/ estate	^v “(i) All projects irrespective of the size, if located in a Notified Industrial Area/ Estate. (ii) <300 tonnes per day (TPD) and located outside a Notified Industrial Area/ Estate.”	^v “General as well as specific condition shall apply. No new Mercury Cell based plants will be permitted and existing units converting to membrane cell technology are exempted from this notification.”
4(e)	Soda ash Industry	All projects	-	-
4(f)	Leather/skin/hide processing industry	New projects outside the industrial area or expansion of existing units out side the industrial area	All new or expansion of projects located within a notified industrial area/ estate	^v “General as well as specific condition shall apply.”
5		Manufacturing / Fabrication		
5(a)	Chemical fertilizers	^v “All projects except Single Super Phosphate.”	^v “Single Super Phosphate.”	-
5(b)	Pesticides industry and pesticide specific intermediates (excluding formulations)	All units producing technical grade pesticides	-	-
5(c)	Petro-chemical complexes (industries based on processing of petroleum fractions & natural gas and/or reforming to aromatics)	All projects -	-	-
5(d)	Manmade fibers manufacturing	Rayon	Others	General Condition shall apply
5(e)	Petrochemical based processing (processes other than cracking & reformation and not covered under the complexes)	Located out side the notified industrial area/ estate -	Located in a notified industrial area/ estate	^v “General as well as specific condition shall apply.”

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
5(f)	Synthetic organic chemicals industry (dyes & dye intermediates; bulk drugs and intermediates excluding drug formulations; synthetic rubbers; basic organic chemicals, other synthetic organic chemicals and chemical intermediates)	Located out side the notified industrial area/ estate	Located in a notified industrial area/ estate	^v "General as well as specific condition shall apply."
5(g)	Distilleries	(i) All Molasses based distilleries (ii) All Cane juice/ non-molasses based distilleries ≥ 30 KLD	All Cane juice / non-molasses based distilleries - <30 KLD	General Condition shall apply
5(h)	Integrated paint industry	-	All projects	General Condition shall apply
5(i)	Pulp & paper industry excluding manufacturing of paper from waste paper and manufacture of paper from ready pulp with out bleaching	Pulp manufacturing and Pulp & Paper manufacturing industry	Paper manufacturing industry without pulp manufacturing	General Condition shall apply
5(j)	Sugar Industry	-	≥ 5000 tcd cane crushing capacity	General Condition shall apply
5(k)	^v Omitted			
6	Service Sectors			
6(a)	Oil & gas transportation pipe line (crude and refinery/ petrochemical products), passing through national parks / sanctuaries / coral reefs / ecologically sensitive areas including LNG Terminal	All projects		-

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
6(b)	Isolated storage & handling of hazardous chemicals (As per threshold planning quantity indicated in column 3 of schedule 2 & 3 of MSIHC Rules 1989 amended 2000)	-	All projects	General Condition shall apply
7		Physical Infrastructure including Environmental Services		
7(a)	Air ports	^v "All projects including airstrips, which are for commercial use."	-	^v "Note: Air strips, which do not involve bunkering/ refueling facility and or Air Traffic Control, are exempted."
7(b)	All ship breaking yards including ship breaking units	All projects	-	-
7(c)	Industrial estates/ parks/ complexes/ areas, export processing Zones (EPZs), Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Biotech Parks, Leather Complexes.	If at least one industry in the proposed industrial estate falls under the Category A, entire industrial area shall be treated as Category A, irrespective of the area. Industrial estates with area greater than 500 ha. and housing at least one Category B industry.	Industrial estates housing at least one Category B industry and area <500 ha. Industrial estates of area > 500 ha. and not housing any industry belonging to Category A or B.	^v "Genral as well as special conditions shall apply. Note: 1. Industrial Estate of area below 500 ha. and not housing any industry of Category 'A' or 'B' does not require clearance. 2. If the area is less than 500 ha. but contains building and construction projects > 20,000 Sq. mts. And or development area more than 50 ha it will be treated as activity listed at serial no. 8(a) or 8(b) in the Schedule, as the case may be."
7(d)	Common hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities (TSDFs)	All integrated facilities having incineration & landfill or incineration alone	All facilities having land fill only	General Condition shall apply

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
7(e)	^v "Ports, harbours, break waters, dredging."	≥ 5 million TPA of cargo handling capacity (excluding fishing harbours)	< 5 million TPA of cargo handling capacity and/or ports/ harbours ≥10,000 TPA of fish handling capacity	^v "General Condition shall apply. Note: 1. Capital dredging inside and outside the ports or harbors and channels are included; 2. Maintenance dredging is exempt provided it formed part of the original proposal for which Environment Management Plan (EMP) was prepared and environmental clearance obtained."
7(f)	Highways	i) New National High ways; and ii) Expansion of National High ways greater than 30 KM, involving additional right of way greater than 20m involving land acquisition and passing through more than one State.	^v " i) All State Highway Project; and ii) State Highway expansion projects in hilly terrain (above 1,000 m AMSL) and or ecologically sensitive areas."	General Condition shall apply. Note: Highways include expressways."
7(g)	Aerial ropeways	^{v(xvi)(a)} "(i) All projects located at altitude of 1,000 mtr. And above. (ii) All projects located in notified ecologically sensitive areas."	^{v(xvi)(b)} "All projects except those covered in column (3)."	General Condition shall apply
7(h)	Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs)		All projects	General Condition shall apply
7(i)	Common Municipal Solid Waste Management Facility (CMSWMF)		All projects	General Condition shall apply
8		Building /Construction projects/Area Development projects and Townships		
8(a)	Building and Construction projects		≥20000 sq.mtrs and <1,50,000 sq.mtrs. of built-up area#	#(built up area for covered construction; in the case of facilities open to the sky, it will be the activity area)
8(b)	Townships and Area Development projects.		Covering an area ≥ 50 ha and or built up area ≥1,50,000 sq .mtrs ++	++All projects under Item 8(b) shall be appraised as Category B1

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

Note:-**V(xvii) “General Condition (GC):**

Any project or activity specified in Category ‘B’ will be treated as Category A, if located in whole or in part within 10 km from the boundary of: (i) Protected Areas notified under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, (ii) Critically Polluted areas as identified by the Central Pollution Control Board from time to time, (iii) Eco-sensitive areas as notified under section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, such as, Mahabaleshwar Panchgani, Matheran, Pachmarhi, Dahanu, Doon Valley, and (iv) inter-State boundaries and international boundaries:

Provided that the requirement regarding distance of 10 km of the inter-State boundaries can be reduced or completely done away with by an agreement between the respective States or U.Ts sharing the common boundary in case the activity does not fall within 10 kilometres of the areas mentioned at item (i), (ii) and (iii) above.”

Specific Condition (SC):

If any Industrial Estate/Complex / Export processing Zones /Special Economic Zones/Biotech Parks / Leather Complex with homogeneous type of industries such as Items 4(d), 4(f), 5(e), 5(f), or those Industrial estates with pre –defined set of activities (not necessarily homogeneous, obtains prior environmental clearance, individual industries including proposed industrial housing within such estates /complexes will not be required to take prior environmental clearance, so long as the Terms and Conditions for the industrial estate/complex are complied with (Such estates/complexes must have a clearly identified management with the legal responsibility of ensuring adherence to the Terms and Conditions of prior environmental clearance, who may be held responsible for violation of the same throughout the life of the complex/estate).

[No. J-11013/56/2004-IA-II (I)]
(R.CHANDRAMOHAN)

JOINT SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

APPENDIX I
(See paragraph – 6)
FORM 1

VI(a) “(I) Basic Information

Serial Number	Item	Details
1.	Name of the project/s	
2.	S. No. in schedule	
3.	Proposed capacity/area/length/tonnage to be handled/command area/lease area/number of wells to be drilled	
4.	New/Expansion/Modernization	
5.	Existing Capacity/Area etc.	
6.	Category of Project i.e. 'A' or 'B'	
7.	Does it attract the general condition? If Yes, please specify.	
8.	Does it attract the specific condition? If Yes, please specify.	
9.	Location	
	Plot/Survey/Khasra No.	
	Village	
	Tehsil	
	District	
	State	
10.	Nearest railway station/airport along with distance in kms.	
11.	Nearest Town, city, District Headquarters along with distance in kms.	
12.	Village Panchayats, Zilla Parishad, Municipal Corporation, Local body (complete postal addresses with telephone nos. to be given)	
13.	Name of the applicant	
14.	Registered Address	
15.	Address for correspondence:	
	Name	
	Designation (Owner/Partner/CEO)	
	Address	
	Pin Code	
	E-mail	
	Telephone No.	
Fax No.		
16	Details of Alternative Sites examined, if any. Location of these sites should be shown on a topo sheet.	Village-District-State 1. 2. 3.
17.	Interlinked Projects	
18	Whether separate application of interlinked project has been submitted?	

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

19.	If yes, date of submission	
20.	If no, reason	
21.	Whether the proposal involves approval/clearance under: If yes, details of the same and their status to be given. (a) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 ? (b) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 ? (c) The C.R.Z. Notification, 1991 ?	
22.	Whether there is any Government Order/Policy relevant/ relating to the site ?	
23.	Forest land involved (hectares)	
24.	Whether there is any litigation pending against the project and/or land in which the project is propose to be set up ? (a) Name of the Court. (b) Case No. (c) Orders/directions of the Court, if any and its relevance with the proposed project.	

(II) Activity

- 1. Construction, operation or decommissioning of the Project involving actions, which will cause physical changes in the locality (topography, land use, changes in water bodies, etc.)**

S.No.	Information/Checklist confirmation	Yes/No	Details thereof (with approximate quantities /rates, wherever possible) with source of information data
1.1	Permanent or temporary change in land use, land cover or topography including increase in intensity of land use (with respect to local land use plan)		
1.2	Clearance of existing land, vegetation and buildings?		
1.3	Creation of new land uses?		
1.4	Pre-construction investigations e.g. bore houses, soil testing?		
1.5	Construction works?		
1.6	Demolition works?		
1.7	Temporary sites used for construction works or housing of construction workers?		
1.8	Above ground buildings, structures or earthworks including linear structures, cut And fill or excavations		

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

1.9	Underground works including mining or tunneling?		
1.10	Reclamation works?		
1.11	Dredging?		
1.12	Offshore structures?		
1.13	Production and manufacturing processes?		
1.14	Facilities for storage of goods or materials?		
1.15	Facilities for treatment or disposal of solid waste or liquid effluents?		
1.16	Facilities for long term housing of operational workers?		
1.17	New road, rail or sea traffic during construction or operation?		
1.18	New road, rail, air waterborne or other transport infrastructure including new or altered routes and stations, ports, airports etc?		
1.19	Closure or diversion of existing transport routes or infrastructure leading to changes in traffic movements?		
1.20	New or diverted transmission lines or pipelines?		
1.21	Impoundment, damming, culverting, realignment or other changes to the hydrology of watercourses or aquifers?		
1.22	Stream crossings?		
1.23	Abstraction or transfers of water from ground or surface waters?		
1.24	Changes in water bodies or the land surface affecting drainage or run-off?		
1.25	Transport of personnel or materials for construction, operation or decommissioning?		
1.26	Long-term dismantling or decommissioning or restoration works?		
1.27	Ongoing activity during decommissioning which could have an impact on the environment?		
1.28	Influx of people to an area in either temporarily or permanently?		
1.29	Introduction of alien species?		

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

1.30	Loss of native species or genetic diversity?		
1.31	Any other actions?		

2. Use of Natural resources for construction or operation of the Project (such as land, water, materials or energy, especially any resources which are non-renewable or in short supply):

S.No.	Information/Checklist confirmation	Yes/No	Details thereof (with approximate quantities /rates, wherever possible) with source of information data
2.1	Land especially undeveloped or agricultural land (ha)		
2.2	Water (expected source & competing users) unit: KLD		
2.3	Minerals (MT)		
2.4	Construction material – stone, aggregates, sand / soil (expected source – MT)		
2.5	Forests and timber (source – MT)		
2.6	Energy including electricity and fuels (source, competing users) Unit: fuel (MT), energy (MW)		
2.7	Any other natural resources (use appropriate standard units)		

3. Use, storage, transport, handling or production of substances or materials, which could be harmful to human health or the environment or raise concerns about actual or perceived risks to human health.

S.No.	Information/Checklist confirmation	Yes/No	Details thereof (with approximate quantities /rates, wherever possible) with source of information data
3.1	Use of substances or materials, which are hazardous (as per MSIHC rules) to human health or the environment (flora, fauna, and water supplies)		
3.2	Changes in occurrence of disease or affect disease vectors (e.g. insect or water borne diseases)		
3.3	Affect the welfare of people e.g. by changing living conditions?		
3.4	Vulnerable groups of people who could be affected by the project e.g. hospital patients, children, the elderly etc.,		
3.5	Any other causes		

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

4. Production of solid wastes during construction or operation or decommissioning (MT/month)

S.No.	Information/Checklist confirmation	Yes/No	Details thereof (with approximate quantities/rates, wherever possible) with source of information data
4.1	Spoil, overburden or mine wastes		
4.2	Municipal waste (domestic and or commercial wastes)		
4.3	Hazardous wastes (as per Hazardous Waste Management Rules)		
4.4	Other industrial process wastes		
4.5	Surplus product		
4.6	Sewage sludge or other sludge from effluent treatment.		
4.7	Construction or demolition wastes		
4.8	Redundant machinery or equipment		
4.9	Contaminated soils or other materials		
4.10	Agricultural wastes		
4.11	Other solid wastes		

5. Release of pollutants or any hazardous, toxic or noxious substances to air (Kg/hr)

S.No.	Information/Checklist confirmation	Yes/No	Details thereof (with approximate quantities/rates, wherever possible) with source of information data
5.1	Emissions from combustion of fossil fuels from stationary or mobile sources.		
5.2	Emissions from production processes		
5.3	Emissions from materials handling including storage or transport		
5.4	Emissions from construction activities including plant and equipment		
5.5	Dust or odours from handling of materials including construction materials, sewage and waste		

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

5.6	Emissions from incineration of waste		
5.7	Emissions from burning of waste in open air (e.g. slash materials, construction debris)		
5.8	Emissions from any other sources		

6. Generation of Noise and Vibration, and Emissions of Light and Heat:

S.No.	Information/Checklist confirmation	Yes/No	Details thereof (with approximate quantities/rates, wherever possible) with source of information data
6.1	From operation of equipment e.g. engines, ventilation plant, crushers		
6.2	From industrial or similar processes		
6.3	From construction or demolition		
6.4	From blasting or piling		
6.5	From construction or operational traffic		
6.6	From lighting or cooling systems		
6.7	From any other sources		

7. Risks of contamination of land or water from releases of pollutants into the ground or into sewers, surface waters, groundwater, coastal waters or the sea:

S.No.	Information/Checklist confirmation	Yes/No	Details thereof (with approximate quantities/rates, wherever possible) with source of information data
7.1	From handling, storage, use or spillage of hazardous materials		
7.2	From discharge of sewage or other effluents to water or the land (expected mode and place of discharge)		
7.3	By deposition of pollutants emitted to air into the land or into water		
7.4	From any other sources		
7.5	Is there a risk of long term build up of pollutants in the environment from these sources?		

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

8. Risk of accidents during construction or operation of the Project, which could affect human health or the environment

S.No.	Information/Checklist confirmation	Yes/No	Details thereof (with approximate quantities/rates, wherever possible) with source of information data
8.1	From explosions, spillages, fires etc from storage, handling, use or production of hazardous substances		
8.2	From any other causes		
8.3	Could the project be affected by natural disasters causing environmental damage (e.g. floods, earthquakes, landslides, cloudburst etc)?		

9. Factors which should be considered (such as consequential development) which could lead to environmental effects or the potential for cumulative impacts with other existing or planned activities in the locality

S.No.	Information/Checklist confirmation	Yes/No	Details thereof (with approximate quantities/rates, wherever possible) with source of information data
9.1	Lead to development of supporting, utilities, ancillary development or development stimulated by the project which could have impact on the environment e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting infrastructure (roads, power supply, waste or waste water treatment, etc.) • housing development • extractive industries • supply industries • other 		
9.2	Lead to after-use of the site, which could have an impact on the environment		
9.3	Set a precedent for later developments		
9.4	Have cumulative effects due to proximity to other existing or planned projects with similar effects		

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

(III) Environmental Sensitivity

S.No.	Areas	Name/ Identity	Aerial distance (within 15 km.) Proposed project location boundary
1	Areas protected under international conventions, national or local legislation for their ecological, landscape, cultural or other related value		
2	Areas which are important or sensitive for ecological reasons - Wetlands, watercourses or other water bodies, coastal zone, biospheres, mountains, forests		
3	Areas used by protected, important or sensitive species of flora or fauna for breeding, esting, foraging, resting, over wintering, migration		
4	Inland, coastal, marine or underground waters		
5	State, National boundaries		
6	Routes or facilities used by the public for access to recreation or other tourist, pilgrim areas		
7	Defence installations		
8	Densely populated or built-up area		
9	Areas occupied by sensitive man-made land uses (<i>hospitals, schools, places of worship, community facilities</i>)		
10	Areas containing important, high quality or scarce Resources (<i>ground water resources, surface resources, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, minerals</i>)		
11	Areas already subjected to pollution or environmental damage. (<i>those where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded</i>)		
12	Areas susceptible to natural hazard which could cause the project to present environmental Problems (<i>earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, Flooding or extreme or adverse climatic conditions</i>)		

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

(IV). Proposed Terms of Reference for EIA studies

^{VI(b)} "I hereby given undertaking that the data and information given in the application and enclosures are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I am aware that if any part of the data and information submitted is found to be false or misleading at any stage, the project will be rejected and clearance give, if any to the project will be revoked at our risk and cost."

Date: _____

Place: _____

Signature of the applicant
With Name and Full Address
(Project Proponent/Authorised Signatory)

NOTE:

1. The projects involving clearance under Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 shall submit with the application a C.R.Z. map duly demarcated by one of the authorized agencies, showing the project activities, w.r.t. C.R.Z. (at the stage of TOR) and the recommendations of the State Coastal Zone Management Authority (at the stage of EC). Simultaneous action shall also be taken to obtain the requisite clearance under the provisions of the C.R.Z. Notification, 1991 for the activities to be located in the CRZ.
2. The projects to be located within 10 km of the National Prks, Sancturies, Biosphere Reserves, Migratory Corridors of Wile Animals, the project proponenet shall submit the map duly authenticated by Chief Wildlife Warden showing these features vis-à-vis the project location and the recommendations or comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden thereon (at the stage of EC)."
3. All correspondence with the Ministry of Environment & Forests including aubmission of application for TOR/Environmental Clearance, subsequent clarifications, as may be required from time to time, participation in the EAC Meeting on behalf of the project proponenet shall be made by the authorized signatory only. The authorized signatory should also submit a document in support of his claim of being and authorized signatory for the specific project."

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

APPENDIX II
(See paragraph 6)

FORM-1 A (only for construction projects listed under item 8 of the Schedule)

CHECK LIST OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

(Project proponents are required to provide full information and wherever necessary attach explanatory notes with the Form and submit along with proposed environmental management plan & monitoring programme)

1. LAND ENVIRONMENT

(Attach panoramic view of the project site and the vicinity)

- 1.1. Will the existing landuse get significantly altered from the project that is not consistent with the surroundings? (Proposed landuse must conform to the approved Master Plan / Development Plan of the area. Change of landuse if any and the statutory approval from the competent authority be submitted). Attach Maps of (i) site location, (ii) surrounding features of the proposed site (within 500 meters) and (iii) the site (indicating levels & contours) to appropriate scales. If not available attach only conceptual plans.
- 1.2. List out all the major project requirements in terms of the land area, built up area, water consumption, power requirement, connectivity, community facilities, parking needs etc.
- 1.3. What are the likely impacts of the proposed activity on the existing facilities adjacent to the proposed site? (Such as open spaces, community facilities, details of the existing landuse, disturbance to the local ecology).
- 1.4. Will there be any significant land disturbance resulting in erosion, subsidence & instability? (Details of soil type, slope analysis, vulnerability to subsidence, seismicity etc may be given).
- 1.5. Will the proposal involve alteration of natural drainage systems? (Give details on a contour map showing the natural drainage near the proposed project site)
- 1.6. What are the quantities of earthwork involved in the construction activity-cutting, filling, reclamation etc. (Give details of the quantities of earthwork involved, transport of fill materials from outside the site etc.)

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

- 1.7. Give details regarding water supply, waste handling etc during the construction period.
- 1.8. Will the low lying areas & wetlands get altered? (Provide details of how low lying and wetlands are getting modified from the proposed activity)
- 1.9. Whether construction debris & waste during construction cause health hazard? (Give quantities of various types of wastes generated during construction including the construction labour and the means of disposal)

2. WATER ENVIRONMENT

- 2.1. Give the total quantity of water requirement for the proposed project with the breakup of requirements for various uses. How will the water requirement met? State the sources & quantities and furnish a water balance statement.
- 2.2. What is the capacity (dependable flow or yield) of the proposed source of water?
- 2.3. What is the quality of water required, in case, the supply is not from a municipal source? (Provide physical, chemical, biological characteristics with class of water quality)
- 2.4. How much of the water requirement can be met from the recycling of treated wastewater? (Give the details of quantities, sources and usage)
- 2.5. Will there be diversion of water from other users? (Please assess the impacts of the project on other existing uses and quantities of consumption)
- 2.6. What is the incremental pollution load from wastewater generated from the proposed activity? (Give details of the quantities and composition of wastewater generated from the proposed activity)
- 2.7. Give details of the water requirements met from water harvesting? Furnish details of the facilities created.
- 2.8. What would be the impact of the land use changes occurring due to the proposed project on the runoff characteristics (quantitative as well as qualitative) of the area in the post construction phase on a long term basis? Would it aggravate the problems of flooding or water logging in any way?

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

- 2.9. What are the impacts of the proposal on the ground water? (Will there be tapping of ground water; give the details of ground water table, recharging capacity, and approvals obtained from competent authority, if any)
- 2.10. What precautions/measures are taken to prevent the run-off from construction activities polluting land & aquifers? (Give details of quantities and the measures taken to avoid the adverse impacts)
- 2.11. How is the storm water from within the site managed?(State the provisions made to avoid flooding of the area, details of the drainage facilities provided along with a site layout indication contour levels)
- 2.12. Will the deployment of construction labourers particularly in the peak period lead to unsanitary conditions around the project site (Justify with proper explanation)
- 2.13. What on-site facilities are provided for the collection, treatment & safe disposal of sewage? (Give details of the quantities of wastewater generation, treatment capacities with technology & facilities for recycling and disposal)
- 2.14. Give details of dual plumbing system if treated waste used is used for flushing of toilets or any other use.

3. VEGETATION

- 3.1. Is there any threat of the project to the biodiversity? (Give a description of the local ecosystem with it's unique features, if any)
- 3.2. Will the construction involve extensive clearing or modification of vegetation? (Provide a detailed account of the trees & vegetation affected by the project)
- 3.3. What are the measures proposed to be taken to minimize the likely impacts on important site features (Give details of proposal for tree plantation, landscaping, creation of water bodies etc along with a layout plan to an appropriate scale)

4. FAUNA

- 4.1. Is there likely to be any displacement of fauna- both terrestrial and aquatic or creation of barriers for their movement? Provide the details.

- 4.2. Any direct or indirect impacts on the avifauna of the area? Provide details.
- 4.3. Prescribe measures such as corridors, fish ladders etc to mitigate adverse impacts on fauna

5. AIR ENVIRONMENT

- 5.1. Will the project increase atmospheric concentration of gases & result in heat islands? (Give details of background air quality levels with predicted values based on dispersion models taking into account the increased traffic generation as a result of the proposed constructions)
- 5.2. What are the impacts on generation of dust, smoke, odorous fumes or other hazardous gases? Give details in relation to all the meteorological parameters.
- 5.3. Will the proposal create shortage of parking space for vehicles? Furnish details of the present level of transport infrastructure and measures proposed for improvement including the traffic management at the entry & exit to the project site.
- 5.4. Provide details of the movement patterns with internal roads, bicycle tracks, pedestrian pathways, footpaths etc., with areas under each category.
- 5.5. Will there be significant increase in traffic noise & vibrations? Give details of the sources and the measures proposed for mitigation of the above.
- 5.6. What will be the impact of DG sets & other equipment on noise levels & vibration in & ambient air quality around the project site? Provide details.

6. AESTHETICS

- 6.1. Will the proposed constructions in any way result in the obstruction of a view, scenic amenity or landscapes? Are these considerations taken into account by the proponents?
- 6.2. Will there be any adverse impacts from new constructions on the existing structures? What are the considerations taken into account?
- 6.3. Whether there are any local considerations of urban form & urban design influencing the design criteria? They may be explicitly spelt out.
- 6.4. Are there any anthropological or archaeological sites or artefacts nearby? State if any other significant features in the vicinity of the proposed site have been considered.

7. SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS

- 7.1. Will the proposal result in any changes to the demographic structure of local population? Provide the details.

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

- 7.2. Give details of the existing social infrastructure around the proposed project.
- 7.3. Will the project cause adverse effects on local communities, disturbance to sacred sites or other cultural values? What are the safeguards proposed?

8. BUILDING MATERIALS

- 8.1. May involve the use of building materials with high-embodied energy. Are the construction materials produced with energy efficient processes? (Give details of energy conservation measures in the selection of building materials and their energy efficiency)
- 8.2. Transport and handling of materials during construction may result in pollution, noise & public nuisance. What measures are taken to minimize the impacts?
- 8.3. Are recycled materials used in roads and structures? State the extent of savings achieved?
- 8.4. Give details of the methods of collection, segregation & disposal of the garbage generated during the operation phases of the project.

9. ENERGY CONSERVATION

- 9.1. Give details of the power requirements, source of supply, backup source etc. What is the energy consumption assumed per square foot of built-up area? How have you tried to minimize energy consumption?
- 9.2. What type of, and capacity of, power back-up to you plan to provide?
- 9.3. What are the characteristics of the glass you plan to use? Provide specifications of its characteristics related to both short wave and long wave radiation?
- 9.4. What passive solar architectural features are being used in the building? Illustrate the applications made in the proposed project.
- 9.5. Does the layout of streets & buildings maximise the potential for solar energy devices? Have you considered the use of street lighting, emergency lighting and solar hot water systems for use in the building complex? Substantiate with details.
- 9.6. Is shading effectively used to reduce cooling/heating loads? What principles have been used to maximize the shading of Walls on the East and the West and the Roof? How much energy saving has been effected?
- 9.7. Do the structures use energy-efficient space conditioning, lighting and mechanical systems? Provide technical details. Provide details of the transformers and motor efficiencies, lighting intensity and air-conditioning load assumptions? Are you using CFC and HCFC free chillers? Provide specifications.
- 9.8. What are the likely effects of the building activity in altering the micro-climates? Provide a self assessment on the likely impacts of the proposed construction on

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

creation of heat island & inversion effects?

- 9.9. What are the thermal characteristics of the building envelope? (a) roof; (b) external walls; and (c) fenestration? Give details of the material used and the U-values or the R values of the individual components.
- 9.10. What precautions & safety measures are proposed against fire hazards? Furnish details of emergency plans.
- 9.11. If you are using glass as wall material provides details and specifications including emissivity and thermal characteristics.
- 9.12. What is the rate of air infiltration into the building? Provide details of how you are mitigating the effects of infiltration.
- 9.13. To what extent the non-conventional energy technologies are utilised in the overall energy consumption? Provide details of the renewable energy technologies used.

10. Environment Management Plan

The Environment Management Plan would consist of all mitigation measures for each item wise activity to be undertaken during the construction, operation and the entire life cycle to minimize adverse environmental impacts as a result of the activities of the project. It would also delineate the environmental monitoring plan for compliance of various environmental regulations. It will state the steps to be taken in case of emergency such as accidents at the site including fire.

APPENDIX III

(See paragraph 7

GENERIC STRUCTURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESMENT DOCUMENT

S.NO	EIA STRUCTURE	CONTENTS
1.	Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose of the report • Identification of project & project proponent • Brief description of nature, size, location of the project and its importance to the country, region • Scope of the study – details of regulatory scoping carried out (As per Terms of Reference)
2.	Project Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condensed description of those aspects of the project (based on project feasibility study), likely to cause environmental effects. Details should be provided to give clear picture of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type of project • Need for the project • Location (maps showing general location, specific location, project boundary & project site layout) • Size or magnitude of operation (incl. Associated activities required by or for the project) • Proposed schedule for approval and implementation • Technology and process description • Project description. Including drawings showing project layout, components of project etc. Schematic representations of the feasibility drawings which give information important for EIA purpose • Description of mitigation measures incorporated into the project to meet environmental standards, environmental operating conditions, or other EIA requirements (as required by the scope) • Assessment of New & untested technology for the risk of technological failure

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

3.	Description of the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study area, period, components & methodology • Establishment of baseline for valued environmental components, as identified in the scope • Base maps of all environmental components
4.	Anticipated Environmental Impacts & Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of Investigated Environmental impacts due to project location, possible accidents, project design, project construction, regular operations, final decommissioning or rehabilitation of a completed project • Measures for minimizing and / or offsetting adverse impacts identified • Irreversible and Irretrievable commitments of environmental components • Assessment of significance of impacts (Criteria for determining significance, Assigning significance) • Mitigation measures
5.	Analysis of Alternatives (Technology & Site)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In case, the scoping exercise results in need for alternatives: • Description of each alternative • Summary of adverse impacts of each alternative • Mitigation measures proposed for each alternative and • Selection of alternative
6.	Environmental Monitoring Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical aspects of monitoring the effectiveness of mitigation measures (incl. Measurement methodologies, frequency, location, data analysis, reporting schedules, emergency procedures, detailed budget & procurement schedules)
7.	Additional Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Consultation • Risk assessment • Social Impact Assessment. R&R Action Plans
8.	Project Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements in the physical infrastructure • Improvements in the social infrastructure

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment potential –skilled; semi-skilled and unskilled • Other tangible benefits
9.	Environmental Cost Benefit Analysis	If recommended at the Scoping stage
10.	EMP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of the administrative aspects of ensuring that mitigative measures are implemented and their effectiveness monitored, after approval of the EIA
11	Summary & Conclusion (This will constitute the summary of the EIA Report)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall justification for implementation of the project • Explanation of how, adverse effects have been mitigated
12.	Disclosure of Consultants engaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The names of the Consultants engaged with their brief resume and nature of Consultancy rendered

APPENDIX III A

(See paragraph 7)

CONTENTS OF SUMMARY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Summary EIA shall be a summary of the full EIA Report condensed to ten A-4 size pages at the maximum. It should necessarily cover in brief the following Chapters of the full EIA Report: -

1. Project Description
2. Description of the Environment
3. Anticipated Environmental impacts and mitigation measures
4. Environmental Monitoring Programme
5. Additional Studies
6. Project Benefits
7. Environment Management Plan

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

APPENDIX IV

(See paragraph 7)

PROCEDURE FOR CONDUCT OF PUBLIC HEARING

1.0 The Public Hearing shall be arranged in a systematic, time bound and transparent manner ensuring widest possible public participation at the project site(s) or in its close proximity District -wise, by the concerned State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) or the Union Territory Pollution Control Committee (UTPCC).

2.0 The Process:

2.1 The Applicant shall make a request through a simple letter to the Member Secretary of the SPCB or Union Territory Pollution Control Committee, in whose jurisdiction the project is located, to arrange the public hearing within the prescribed statutory period. In case the project site is covering more than one District or State or Union Territory, the public hearing is mandated in each District, State or Union Territory in which the project is located and the applicant shall make separate requests to each concerned SPCB or UTPCC for holding the public hearing as per this procedure.

2.2 The Applicant shall enclose with the letter of request, at least 10 hard copies and an equivalent number of soft (electronic) copies of the draft EIA Report with the generic structure given in Appendix III including the Summary Environment Impact Assessment report in English and in the official language of the state/local language, prepared strictly in accordance with the Terms of Reference communicated after Scoping (Stage-2). Simultaneously the applicant shall arrange to forward copies, one hard and one soft, of the above draft EIA Report along with the Summary EIA report to the following authorities or offices, within whose jurisdiction the project will be located:

- (a) District Magistrate/District collector/Deputy commissioner/s
- (b) Zila Parishad or Municipal Corporation or Panchayats Union
- (c) District Industries Office
- (d) Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) / PRIs Concerned / Development authorities.
- (d) Concerned Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment and Forests

2.3 On receiving the draft Environmental Impact Assessment report, the abovementioned authorities except the Regional Office of MoEF, shall arrange to widely publicize it within their respective jurisdictions requesting the interested persons to send their comments to the concerned regulatory authorities. They shall also make available the draft EIA Report for inspection electronically or otherwise to the public during normal office hours till the Public Hearing is over.

2.4 The SPCB or UTPCC concerned shall also make similar arrangements for giving publicity about the project within the State/Union Territory and make available the Summary of the draft Environmental Impact Assessment report (Appendix III A) for

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

inspection in select offices or public libraries or any other suitable location etc. They shall also additionally make available a copy of the draft Environmental Impact Assessment report to the above five authorities/offices as given in para 2.2.

3.0 Notice of Public Hearing:

3.1 The Member-Secretary of the concerned SPCB or UTPCC shall finalize the date, time and exact venue for the conduct of public hearing within 7(seven) days of the date of receipt of the draft Environmental Impact Assessment report from the project proponent, and advertise the same in one major National Daily and one Regional vernacular Daily / Official State Language. A minimum notice period of 30(thirty) days shall be provided to the public for furnishing their responses;

3.2 The advertisement shall also inform the public about the places or offices where the public could access the draft Environmental Impact Assessment report and the Summary Environmental Impact Assessment report before the public hearing. In places where the newspapers do not reach, the Competent Authority should arrange to inform the local public about the public hearing by other means such as by way of beating of drums as well as advertisement / announcement on radio / television.

3.3 No postponement of the date, time, venue of the public hearing shall be undertaken, unless some untoward emergency situation occurs and then only on the recommendation of the concerned District Magistrate/District collector/Deputy Commissioner, the postponement shall be notified to the public through the same National and Regional vernacular dailies and also prominently displayed at all the identified offices by the concerned SPCB or Union Territory Pollution Control Committee;

3.4 In the above exceptional circumstances, fresh date, time and venue for the public consultation shall be decided by the Member – Secretary of the concerned SPCB or UTPCC only in consultation with the District Magistrate/District collector/Deputy Commissioner and notified afresh as per procedure under 3.1 above.

4.0 Supervision and Presiding over the Hearing:

4.1 The District Magistrate/District collector/Deputy Commissioner or his or her representative not below the rank of an Additional District Magistrate assisted by a representative of SPCB or UTPCC, shall Supervise and preside over the entire public hearing process.

5.0 Videography

5.1 The SPCB or UTPCC shall arrange to video film the entire proceedings. A copy of the videotape or a CD shall be enclosed with the public hearing proceedings while Forwarding it to the Regulatory Authority concerned.

6.0 Proceedings

6.1 The attendance of all those who are present at the venue shall be noted and annexed with the final proceedings.

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

6.2 There shall be no quorum required for attendance for starting the proceedings.

6.3 A representative of the applicant shall initiate the proceedings with a presentation on the project and the Summary EIA report.

6.4 Persons present at the venue shall be granted the opportunity to seek information or clarifications on the project from the Applicant. The summary of the public hearing proceedings accurately reflecting all the views and concerns expressed shall be recorded by the representative of the SPCB or UTPCC and read over to the audience at the end of the proceedings explaining the contents in the local/vernacular language and the agreed minutes shall be signed by the District Magistrate/District collector/Deputy Commissioner or his or her representative on the same day and forwarded to the SPCB/UTPCC concerned.

6.5 A Statement of the issues raised by the public and the comments of the Applicant shall also be prepared in the local language or the Official State language, as the case may be, and in English and annexed to the proceedings:

6.6 The proceedings of the public hearing shall be conspicuously displayed at the office of the Panchyats within whose jurisdiction the project is located, office of the concerned Zila Parishad, District Magistrate/District collector/Deputy Commissioner, and the SPCB or UTPCC . The SPCB or UTPCC shall also display the proceedings on its website for general information. Comments, if any, on the proceedings which may be sent directly to the concerned regulatory authorities and the applicant concerned.

7.0 Time period for completion of public hearing

7.1 The public hearing shall be completed within a period of 45 (forty five) days from date of receipt of the request letter from the Applicant. Thereafter the SPCB or UTPCC concerned shall sent the public hearing proceedings to the concerned regulatory authority within 8(eight) days of the completion of the public hearing. Simultaneously, a copy will also be provided to the project proponent. The applicant may also directly forward a copy of the approved public hearing proceedings to the regulatory authority concerned along with the final Environmental Impact Assessment report or supplementary report to the draft EIA report prepared after the public hearing and public consultations incorporating the concerns expressed in the public hearing along with action plan and financial allocation, item-wise, to address those concerns.”.

7.2 If the SPCB or UTPCC fails to hold the public hearing within the stipulated 45(forty five) days, the Central Government in Ministry of Environment and Forests for Category ‘A’ project or activity and the State Government or Union Territory Administration for Category ‘B’ project or activity at the request of the SEIAA, shall engage any other agency or authority to complete the process, as per procedure laid down in this notification.

APPENDIX –V

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b) , (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

(See paragraph 7)

PROCEDURE PRESCRIBED FOR APPRAISAL

1. The applicant shall apply to the concerned regulatory authority through a simple communication enclosing the following documents where public consultations are mandatory:
 - Final Environment Impact Assessment Report [20(twenty) hard copies and 1 (one) soft copy]
 - A copy of the video tape or CD of the public hearing proceedings
 - A copy of final layout plan (20 copies)
 - A copy of the project feasibility report (1 copy)
2. The Final EIA Report and the other relevant documents submitted by the applicant shall be scrutinized in office within 30 days from the date of its receipt by the concerned Regulatory Authority strictly with reference to the TOR and the inadequacies noted shall be communicated electronically or otherwise in a single set to the Members of the EAC /SEAC enclosing a copy each of the Final EIA Report including the public hearing proceedings and other public responses received along with a copy of Form -1or Form 1A and scheduled date of the EAC /SEAC meeting for considering the proposal.
3. Where a public consultation is not mandatory, the appraisal shall be made on the basis of the prescribed application Form 1 and EIA report, in the case of all projects and activities other than Item 8 of the Schedule. In the case of Item 8 of the Schedule, considering its unique project cycle, the EAC or SEAC concerned shall appraise all Category B projects or activities on the basis of Form 1, Form 1A and the conceptual plan and make recommendations on the project regarding grant of environmental clearance or otherwise and also stipulate the conditions for environmental clearance.”
4. Every application shall be placed before the EAC/SEAC and its appraisal completed within 60 days of its receipt with requisite documents / details in the prescribed manner.
5. The applicant shall be informed at least 15 (fifteen) days prior to the scheduled date of the EAC /SEAC meeting for considering the project proposal.
6. The minutes of the EAC /SEAC meeting shall be finalised within 5 working days of the meeting and displayed on the website of the concerned regulatory authority. In case the project or activity is recommended for grant of EC, then the minutes shall clearly list out the specific environmental safeguards and conditions. In case the recommendations are for rejection, the reasons for the same shall also be explicitly stated.

Note: The principal rules were published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) vide notification number S.O. 1533 (E), dated 14th September, 2006 and amended vide S.O. 1737 (E), dated the 11th October, 2007.

APPENDIX VI

(See paragraph 5)

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b), (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

COMPOSITION OF THE SECTOR/ PROJECT SPECIFIC EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (EAC) FOR CATEGORY A PROJECTS AND THE STATE/UT LEVEL EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEES (SEACs) FOR CATEGORY B PROJECTS TO BE CONSTITUTED BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT`

1. The Expert Appraisal Committees (EAC(s) and the State/UT Level Expert Appraisal Committees (SEACs) shall consist of only professionals and experts fulfilling the following eligibility criteria:

Professional: The person should have at least (i) 5 years of formal University training in the concerned discipline leading to a MA/MSc Degree, or (ii) in case of Engineering /Technology/Architecture disciplines, 4 years formal training in a professional training course together with prescribed practical training in the field leading to a B.Tech/B.E./B.Arch. Degree, or (iii) Other professional degree (e.g. Law) involving a total of 5 years of formal University training and prescribed practical training, or (iv) Prescribed apprenticeship/article ship and pass examinations conducted by the concerned professional association (e.g. Chartered Accountancy),or (v) a University degree , followed by 2 years of formal training in a University or Service Academy (e.g. MBA/IAS/IFS). In selecting the individual professionals, experience gained by them in their respective fields will be taken note of.

Expert: A professional fulfilling the above eligibility criteria with at least 15 years of relevant experience in the field, or with an advanced degree (e.g. Ph.D.) in a concerned field and at least 10 years of relevant experience.

Age: Below 70 years. However, in the event of the non-availability of /paucity of experts in a given field, the maximum age of a member of the Expert Appraisal Committee may be allowed up to 75 years

2. The Members of the EAC shall be Experts with the requisite expertise and experience in the following fields /disciplines. In the event that persons fulfilling the criteria of "Experts" are not available, Professionals in the same field with sufficient experience may be considered:

- **Environment Quality Experts:** Experts in measurement/monitoring, analysis and interpretation of data in relation to environmental quality
- **Sectoral Experts in Project Management:** Experts in Project Management or Management of Process/Operations/Facilities in the relevant sectors.
- **Environmental Impact Assessment Process Experts:** Experts in conducting and carrying out Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and preparation of Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) and other Management plans and who have wide expertise and knowledge of predictive techniques and tools used in the EIA process
- **Risk Assessment Experts**
- **Life Science Experts in floral and faunal management**
- **Forestry and Wildlife Experts**

I; II; III (i), (ii); IV (a), (b); V (i), (ii), (iii)(a), (b), (c), (iv), (v), (vi) (a), (b), (vii), (viii) (a), (b), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii) (a), (b) , (xiii), (xiv) (a), (b), (xv) (a), (b), (xvi) (a), (b), (xvii); VI (a), (b); VII & VIII of the Notification, S.O. 3067(E) dated 01.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, (Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 2002] New Delhi, Tuesday, November 1, 2009; an amendment to EC notification S.O.1533(E) dated 14.09.2006

• **Environmental Economics Expert with experience in project appraisal**

3. The Membership of the EAC shall not exceed 15 (fifteen) regular Members. However the Chairperson may co-opt an expert as a Member in a relevant field for a particular meeting of the Committee.

4. The Chairperson shall be an outstanding and experienced environmental policy expert or expert in management or public administration with wide experience in the relevant development sector.

5. The Chairperson shall nominate one of the Members as the Vice Chairperson who shall

preside over the EAC in the absence of the Chairman /Chairperson.

6. A representative of the Ministry of Environment and Forests shall assist the Committee as its Secretary.

7. The maximum tenure of a Member, including Chairperson, shall be for 2 (two) terms of 3 (three) years each.

8. The Chairman / Members may not be removed prior to expiry of the tenure without cause and proper enquiry.

रजिस्ट्री सं० डी० एल०-33004/99

REGD. NO. D. L.-33004/99



भारत का राजपत्र The Gazette of India

असाधारण

EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)

PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 545]

नई दिल्ली, मंगलवार, मार्च 4, 2014/फाल्गुन 13, 1935

No. 545]

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2014/PHALGUNA 13, 1935

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय

अधिसूचना

नई दिल्ली, 28 फरवरी, 2014

का.आ. 637(अ).—केन्द्रीय सरकार, पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 (1986 का 29) की धारा 23 द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए उक्त अधिनियम की धारा 5 के अधीन इसमें निहित शक्तियों को पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 की धारा 3 की उप-धारा (3) के अधीन केंद्रीय सरकार द्वारा गठित किए गए सभी राज्य और संघराज्यक्षेत्र पर्यावरण समाघात प्राधिकरणों (जिन्हें इसमें इसके पश्चात् उक्त प्राधिकरण कहा गया है) को उक्त प्राधिकरणों द्वारा अपनी अधिकारिता के भीतर परियोजनाओं या क्रिया कलापों को जारी पर्यावरण अनापत्तियों की शर्तों के अतिक्रमण की दशा में परियोजना प्रस्तावकों को कारण बताओ नोटिस जारी करने तथा इस शर्त के अधीन कि केंद्रीय सरकार शक्तियों के ऐसे प्रत्यायोजन का प्रतिसंहरण कर सकेगी या उक्त अधिनियम की धारा 5 के उपबंधों को स्वयं अवलंब ले सकेगी, यदि केंद्रीय सरकार की राय में लोक हित में ऐसी कार्यवाही आवश्यक है, यदि अपेक्षित हो तो अतिक्रमणों के लिए उक्त परियोजना प्रस्तावकों को ऐसी पर्यावरण अनापत्तियों को उन्हें प्रास्थगित रखने या वापस लिए जाने हेतु निदेश जारी करने की शक्तियों का प्रत्यायोजन करती है।

[सं. जे-11013/2/2013-आई ए (आई)]

अजय त्यागी, संयुक्त सचिव

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 28th February, 2014

S.O. 637(E).—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 23 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986), the Central Government hereby delegates the powers vested in it under section 5 of the said Act to all the State and Union Territory Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (Hereinafter referred to as the said Authorities) constituted by the Central Government under sub-section (3) of section 3 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to issue show cause notice to project proponents in case of violation of the conditions of the environment clearances issued by the said Authorities to projects or activities within their jurisdiction and to issue directions to the said project proponents for keeping such environment clearances in abeyance or withdrawing them, if required, for violations, subject to the condition that the Central Government may revoke such delegations of powers or may itself invoke the provisions of section 5 of the said Act, if in the opinion of the Central Government such a Course of action is necessary in the public interest.

[No. J-11013/2/2013-IA. (I)]

AJAY TYAGI, Jt. Secy.

अधिसूचना

नई दिल्ली, 28 फरवरी, 2014

का.आ. 638(अ).—केन्द्रीय सरकार, पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 (1986 का 29) की धारा 19 के खण्ड (क) द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए उक्त की धारा के प्रयोजन के लिए इससे उपाबद्ध उस सारणी के स्तंभ (3) में उनसे प्रत्येक के सामने उल्लिखित अधिकारिता के साथ उस सारणी के स्तंभ (2) में उल्लिखित प्राधिकरण या अधिकारी को प्रातिकृत करती है:

सारणी

क्रम संख्यांक	प्राधिकरण/अधिकारी	अधिकारिता
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 की धारा 3 की उपधारा (3) के अधीन केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा गठित राज्य या संघ राज्यक्षेत्र स्तर पर्यावरण समाघात प्राधिकरण (एस.ई.आई.ए.ए.)	संपूर्ण राज्य या संघ राज्यक्षेत्र
2.	पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय (एम.ओ.ई.एफ.) के किन्हीं प्रादेशिक कार्यालयों में तैनात कोई निदेशक, वन संरक्षक या अपर प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक	पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय द्वारा यथा-विनिश्चित प्रादेशिक कार्यालय की अधिकारिता

[सं. जे-11013/2/2013-आई ए (आई)]

अजय त्यागी, संयुक्त सचिव

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 28th February, 2014

S.O. 638(E).—In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (a) of section 19 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986), the Central Government hereby authorises the Authority or officer mentioned in column (2) of the Table hereto for the purpose of the said section with the jurisdiction mentioned against each of them in column (3) of that Table:

TABLE

S. No.	Authority/Officer	Jurisdiction
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	State or Union Territory level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) constituted by the Central Government under sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.	Whole of State or Union Territory
2.	Any Director, Conservator of Forests or Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Posted in any of the Regional Offices of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF).	Jurisdiction of the Regional Office as decided by the Ministry of Environment and Forests

[No. J-11013/2/2013-IA. (I)]

AJAY TYAGI, Jt. Secy.



IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. A.J.DESAI

&

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE V.G.ARUN

WEDNESDAY, THE 6TH DAY OF MARCH 2024 / 16TH PHALGUNA, 1945

WP(C) NO. 3097 OF 2016

PETITIONER/S:

ONE EARTH ONE LIFE
AGED 57 YEARS
REPRESENTED BY ITS LEGAL CELL DIRECTOR, SRI.TONY
THOMAS K., IRUMBAKACHOLA, MANNARKAD P.O.,
PALAKKAD DISTRICT.
BY ADVS.
SRI.RAJAN VISHNURAJ
SRI.P.CHANDRASEKHAR
SRI.V.HARISH
RENJITH THAMPAN (SR.)

RESPONDENT/S:

- 1 MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE
CHANGE
FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE, PARYAVARAN BHAVAN,
CGO COMPLEX, LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI - 110 003,
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY.
- 2 STATE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY
DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE,
PALLIMUKKU, PETTAH P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695
024.
BY ADVS.
SHRI.BABU P.L., CGC
MANU S., DSG OF INDIA
S. BIJU
V. TEKCHAND, SR. GP.

THIS WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) HAVING COME UP FOR
ADMISSION ON 06.03.2024, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY
DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING:



J U D G M E N T

A. J. Desai, C. J.

The question involved in this public interest litigation is ‘whether a notification can be issued by the Government different than the draft notification issued for the purpose involved therein?’.

2. The petitioner, an organization registered under the Travancore-Cochin Scientific, Literary and Charitable Societies Registration Act, 1955, working with the sole intention to protect and improve the forests and safeguard the environment, challenged Ext. P1 notification dated 22.12.2014 issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change on various grounds, but mainly on the ground that the notification is contrary to the draft notification issued on 11.09.2014 and the observation in the notification that no objections or suggestions were received by the Department in response to the draft notification is factually incorrect.

3. Though notice was issued by this Court, no counter



affidavit came to be filed on behalf of the respondents for a considerably long time. Thereafter, a Division Bench of this Court passed the following order on 08.09.2020:-

“Though orders were passed in the year 2018 directing the respondents to respond to the prayers sought for and though on several occasions, time was also granted by this court, no counter affidavit has been filed to the writ petition from 2016 onwards.

2. Mr.R.Prasanthkumar, learned Central Government Counsel for the respondents seeks some more time to file counter affidavit. Though considerable time has been granted for the above said purpose, even a statement/counter affidavit is not filed.

3. Mr.V.Harish, learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that on account of non-grant of stay of the impugned notification, several buildings have been constructed without any environmental clearance. It is also brought to the notice of this court that under similar circumstances, taking note of the failure in filing the counter affidavit despite considerable time being granted, High Court of Karnataka has granted interim stay of the impugned notification No.3252(E) dated 22.12.2014. Learned counsel for the petitioner also submitted that when the present writ



petition came up for hearing, after perusal of the files produced by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi, a Hon'ble Division Bench of this court noticed that there was a letter of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, addressing the Law Ministry, accepting the mistake in the impugned notification and on the directions of the Division Bench, copy of the said letter was also furnished to the learned counsel for the petitioner.

4. On the above said aspect, learned counsel for the petitioner is directed to produce a copy of the letter of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi addressed to the Law Department. He is further directed to produce a copy of the order of stay granted by the High Court of Karnataka.”

4. Thereafter, the matter was again called by the Division Bench on 17.09.2020 and the following order passed by which a stay came to be granted against the modification to the definition of built up area brought about by Ext. P1 notification dated 22.12.2014;

“The writ petition is filed by a voluntary organisation challenging an amendment to the Environmental Impact



Assessment Notification dated 22.12.2014 produced as Ext. P1 issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi.

2. The grievance of the petitioner is that vide Ext.P1, the first respondent has modified the definition of 'built up area' providing exemptions to clause 8(a) and (b) from the application of general conditions contained under the Notification in question. It is also the case of the petitioner that the impugned order is in contravention of sub-Rule (3) of Rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 ('Rules, 1986' for brevity). With the above backdrop, the petitioner seeks to quash Ext.P1 notification to the extent to which it inserts an amended Note that tinkers the impact and scheme of the amending Notification No. SO1533(E) dated 14.09.2006 issued under sub-Rule (3) of Rules, 1986, by inter alia modifying/diluting the definition of 'built up area' and thus, providing exemption to clause (8)(a) by way of Note 1 and further to the extent to which the amended Notification exempts the entries under clause 8(a) and (b) from the application of general conditions contained under the original EIA Notification, 2006, and for other consequential reliefs.

3. When the matter came up for admission on 27.01.2016, respondents were granted four weeks' time to file counter affidavit and thereafter, the case was being listed



periodically. On 05.10.2016, this court has granted three weeks' time as a last chance to file counter affidavit, if any, and further the Ministry of Environment was directed to place on record the files relating to the decision making process. Even though such a peremptory direction was issued, no counter was filed in spite of periodical postings of the case. On 14.06.2018, at the request of the respondents, four weeks' time was again granted by this court and in spite of the same, it was not filed. Thereupon, on 31.07.2018, when the matter was posted, the Standing Counsel sought further time for additional instructions for a period of three weeks and the same was granted as a last chance. On 27.05.2019, the learned Standing Counsel for the Government of India submitted before the Court that he has received instructions and had undertaken to file the counter affidavit within three weeks. Accordingly, the matter was adjourned for a further period of three weeks. Subsequently, when the matter was posted, there was no representation for the respondents and therefore, the case was adjourned. The case was posted before us on 29.05.2020 and it was adjourned to 16.06.2020 at the request of the respondents. On 16.06.2020, again time was sought for for filing counter affidavit and accordingly, two weeks' time was granted, on which day it was recorded that the counsel for the respondent submitted that counter affidavit has been sent for filing and due to Pandemic Covid -19, there is some delay.



Accordingly, time was extended by a further period of two weeks to file the counter affidavit and the case was posted to 14.08.2020. On 14.08.2020, time was again sought and posted the case to 08.09.2020. On 08.09.2020, a detailed order was passed by this Court expressing dissatisfaction due to the non-compliance of the directions to file counter affidavit. However, the matter was posted to this day. Today also, no counter affidavit is filed. However a statement is filed by the counsel and submitted that the statement filed is not authenticated by the concerned authority and the same was filed on telephonic instructions. Learned counsel for the petitioner has produced additional documents along with I.A. No. 2 of 2020, inter alia various orders passed by this Court, the National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi and other notifications/order issued by the Government of India etc..

4. We have heard the respective counsel for the purpose of interim orders since the interim orders was being pressed for the Counsel for the petitioner on the ground that in the guise of Ext. P1 notification, permits are granted in absolute violation of the Environment (Protection) Act, and the original EIA Notification issued in the year 2006. it is also pointed out that the drastic amendment to section 8(a) was brought without an appropriate draft notification, which is a mandatory requirement under the notification issued by the Government of India and therefore, Ext. P1 notification



to that extent cannot be sustained and so also, the same is in violation of the sub-Rule (3) of Rule 5 of the) Rules, 1986. Learned counsel representing the central Government Counsel submitted that further time is required to place the counter affidavit and make submissions in respect of the contentions advanced by the petitioner

5. We have evaluated the rival submissions and is of the opinion that the subject matter requires serious consideration, since we find that there is some force prima facie in the contentions advanced by the petitioner. Therefore, the balance of convenience requires that undue advantage is not taken by the builders by carrying out constructions, in the guise of that part of Ext.P1 notification, which is seriously under challenge being violative of the Notification of the Government of India and the Rules, 1986. Therefore, we are of the opinion that in order to protect the environmental issues, an interim order is granted effective from today onwards. Therefore, there will be a stay of Ext. P1 notification to the extent of modification by the definition of built up area provided to clause 8(a) by way of Note 1 to the effect that the projects or activities shall not include industrial shed, school, college, hostel for Educational Institutions, but such buildings shall ensure environmental management, solid and liquid waste management, rain water harvesting and may use recycled materials, such as fly ash, bricks, for a period of two months.”



5. Thereafter, the matter was listed for final hearing. Ultimately, on 10.01.2024, a counter affidavit was filed by the respondents to which there is no rejoinder.

6. The case put forth by the petitioner is that the 1st respondent Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, by issuing a draft notification dated 11.09.2014, had called upon the persons interested in making any objection or suggestion to the proposed amendment to the original notification dated 14.09.2006 issued by the Central Government with respect to the requirement of getting environment clearance for different types of construction. It is the case of the petitioner that, in spite of receiving several suggestions and objections to the draft notification, the respondent Department issued final notification under Rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, stating that no objections or suggestions were received by the Department.

7. Learned Senior Counsel appearing for the petitioner would submit that, for the first time, by filing a counter affidavit in



the month of January 2024, the respondents tried to clarify that there was a typographical error in issuing the notification dated 22.12.2014, stating that no objections or suggestions were received. He would submit that, even though suggestions or objections were received, as admitted by the respondent Department, there is no discussion about the same in the final notification. He would further submit that, even otherwise, the final notification is totally different from the draft notification earlier issued on 11.09.2014. He would submit that, in the draft notification, it is specifically mentioned that the project or activities covered under the notification will be residential buildings, commercial buildings, hotels, hospitals, hostels, office blocks, Information Technology / Software Development Units / Parks, whereas by the final notification, certain buildings like industrial sheds, schools, colleges and hostel for educational institutions are excluded, which was not the intention of the Department while issuing the draft notification. He therefore would submit that, on both these grounds, the notification dated



22.12.2014 is required to be quashed and set aside.

8. He would further submit that, under Section 23 of the General Clauses Act, 1897, if any changes are to be made after previous publication of rules or bye-laws, certain conditions are required to be followed and the most important condition is to invite objections from the public at large. He would submit that, publishing a draft notification inviting objections or suggestions and thereafter, issuing final notification totally different from the draft notification, would vitiate the process, since there was no occasion for the public to know about the changes made to the final notification. It is submitted that, even in the absence of any objections or suggestions to the draft notification, the Government cannot issue a different final notification.

9. Relying upon a decision of the Bombay High Court in **Avinash Ramakrishna Kashiwar and Others v. State of Maharashtra and Others [AIR 2015 NOC 535]** in PIL No. 72 of 2013 dated 10.12.2014, learned Senior Counsel would submit that the Bombay High Court, on a similar set of facts, quashed and



set aside a final notification which was different from the draft notification. Reliance is also placed upon a decision of this Court in **Kerala State Road Transport Corporation v. Saju Varkey and Others [2018 (4) KHC 617]**. He therefore would submit that the writ petition requires to be allowed on these grounds.

10. On the other hand, learned Central Government Counsel would submit that, since there was a mistake on the part of the authority while issuing the final notification dated 22.12.2014, in stating that no objections or suggestions were received to the draft notification, they tried to correct the same by informing the Ministry of Law and Justice. However, the Legislative Department of the Ministry of Law and Justice by communication dated 29.09.2016, informed that it is not possible to amend the notification. By taking us through the counter affidavit, he would submit that the objections received by the Department have been considered and thereafter, the notification has been issued. In answer to the contention regarding the change in the final notification, he would submit that, earlier, almost all the buildings



having specified built up area were required to obtain environmental clearance certificate. However, buildings like industrial sheds, schools, colleges and hostel for educational institutions have been exempted by final notification. He would submit that, the change was brought about considering the nature of activity carried out in these buildings. Therefore, there is no adverse effect on the public at large as far as the environment is concerned. He would submit that, under Rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, the Government is empowered to modify the Rules and therefore, the petition may be dismissed.

11. We have heard the learned Advocates appearing for the respective parties.

12. The draft notification issued on 11.09.2014 reads as under:-

**“MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND
CLIMATE CHANGE**



NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 11th September, 2014

S.O. 2319(E). The following draft notification further to amend the notification of the Government of India in the erstwhile Ministry of Environment and Forests number S.O. 1553(E), dated 14th September, 2006 which the Central Government proposes to issue, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) and clause (v) of sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986), is hereby published, as required under sub-rule (3) of rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 for the information of the public likely to be affected thereby, and notice is hereby given that the said notification will be taken into consideration by the Central Government on or after the expiry of sixty days from the date on which copies of the Gazette of India containing this notification are made available to the public;

Any person interested in making any objection or suggestion on the proposals contained in the draft notification may do so in writing within the period so specified through post to the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi-110 003 or electronically at email address: ad.raju@nic.in



Draft Notification

In the Schedule to the said notification, for items 8(a) and 8(b), and the entries relating thereto, the following items and entries shall be substituted, namely:-

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
"8		Building / Construction projects / Area Development projects and Townships		
8(a)	Building and Construction Projects	≥20000 sq.mtrs and <1,50,000 sq.mtrs of built-up area#		<p>The built up area for the purpose of this Notification is defined as ‘the built up or covered area on all the floors put together including basement(s) and other service areas, which are proposed in the building/construction projects.</p> <p>Note:</p> <p>(i) The projects or activities covered are residential buildings, commercial buildings, hotels, hospitals, hostels, office blocks and information technology / software development units / Parks</p> <p>(ii) “General Condition” is not applicable.</p>
8(b)	Townships	Covering	an	++All projects under



and Area
Development
projects

area \geq 50 ha
and or built up
area \geq 1,50,000
sq.mtrs++

Item 8(b) shall be
appraised as Category
B1

Note:

“General Condition” is
not applicable.”

[F. No. 19-2/2013-IA.III]

AJAY TYAGI, Jt. Secy.”

13. In the said notification, in the second paragraph, the public at large was invited to raise objections or suggestions. Accordingly, the Department had received many objections and suggestions from various institutions or individuals throughout the country, evident from the counter filed by the respondents. However, if we see the language of the final notification dated 22.12.2014, it has been specifically stated that no objections or suggestions were received in response to the earlier notification dated 11.09.2014. Final notification dated 22.12.2014 reads as under:-

**“MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND
CLIMATE CHANGE**



NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 22nd December, 2014

S.O. 3252(E).-Whereas, a draft notification further to amend the notification number S.O 1555(E), dated the 14th September, 2006 (hereinafter referred to as the principal notification), was published, as required under sub-rule (3) of rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, sub-section (ii) vide number S.O. 2319, (E) dated the 11th September, 2014 (hereinafter referred to as the said notification), inviting objections and suggestions from all persons likely to be affected thereby within a period of sixty days from the date on which copies of Gazette containing the said notification were made available to the public;

And whereas, copies of the said notification were made available to the public on 11th September, 2014;

And whereas, no objections or suggestions have been received in response to the said notification within the specified period of sixty days;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-section (1) and clause (v) of Sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the said Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986) read with clause (d) of sub-rule (3) of rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, the Central



Government hereby makes the following amendments in the said notification, namely:-

In the principal notification, in the Schedule, under Column (1), for item 8 relating to Building / Construction Projects / Area Development Projects and Townships and sub-items 8 (a) and 8 (b) and the entries relating thereto, specified there under, the following item, sub-items and entries shall be substituted, namely:-

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
				Building or Construction projects or Area Development projects and Townships
8(a)	Building and Construction Projects		≥ 20000 sq.mtrs and $< 1,50,000$ sq.mtrs of built-up area	The term “built up area” for the purpose of this notification the built up or covered area on all floors put together including its basement and other service areas, which are proposed in the building or construction projects.
				Note 1:- The projects or activities shall not include industrial shed, school, college, hostel for educational institution, but such buildings shall ensure sustainable environmental management, solid and liquid waste



8	Townships and Area Development projects	Covering an area of >50ha and or built up area > 1,50,000 sq.mtrs.	<p>management, rain water harvesting and may use recycled materials such as fly ash bricks.</p> <p>(ii) “General Conditions” shall not apply.</p> <p>A project of Township and Area Development Projects covered under this item shall require an Environment Assessment report and be appraised as Category ‘B1’ Project.</p> <p>Note.- “General Conditions” shall not apply.</p>
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[F. No. 19-2/2013-IA-III]
MANOJ KUMAR SINGH, Jt. Secy.”

In the above notification, it is specifically stated in paragraph 3 that no objections or suggestions were received.

14. It is true that the authority had requested the Ministry of Law and Justice to permit them to amend the notification, however, the same was refused by Ext. P11 communication dated 29.09.2016. If the authority had received such communication, instead of amending the notification, the authority should have



considered the objections and suggestions in detail and could have issued a fresh notification which is not the case on hand.

15. As far as the proposal made in column 5 of both notifications is compared, there is a vast difference in the final notification, by which certain buildings are exempted from getting environmental clearance certificates. People at large were not aware about the intention of the authority to modify the draft notification and therefore, in our considered opinion, there is a breach of Section 23 of the General Clauses Act, 1897, which reads as under:-

“23. Provisions applicable to making of rules or bye-laws after previous publication.—

Where, by any [Central Act] or Regulation, a power to make rules or bye-laws is expressed to be given subject to the condition of the rules or bye-laws being made after previous publication, then the following provisions shall apply, namely:—

(1) the authority having power to make the rules or bye-laws shall, before making them, publish a draft of the proposed rules or bye-laws for the information of persons



likely to be affected thereby;

(2) the publication shall be made in such manner as that authority deems to be sufficient, or, if the condition with respect to previous publication so requires, in such manner as the [Government concerned] prescribes;

(3) there shall be published with the draft a notice specifying a date on or after which the draft will be taken into consideration;

(4) the authority having power to make the rules or bye-laws, and, where the rules or bye-laws are to be made with the sanction, approval or concurrence of another authority, that authority also, shall consider any objection or suggestion which may be received by the authority having power to make the rules or bye-laws from any person with respect to the draft before the date so specified;

(5) the publication in the [Official Gazette] of a rule or bye-law purporting to have been made in exercise of a power to make rules or bye-laws after previous publication shall be conclusive proof that the rule or bye-law has been duly made.”

16. Sub-sections (1) to (4) of Section 23 makes it clear that the public should be aware about the changes in the Rules, bye-



laws etc. In the present case, the public was not aware about the difference between the draft and the final notifications.

17. Rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 is relevant to the case on hand, wherein also there is a requirement of public notice. The said Rule, as it then stood, reads as under:-

“5. Prohibitions and restrictions on the location of industries and the carrying on processes and operations in different areas.- (1) The Central government may take into consideration the following factors while prohibiting or restricting the location of industries and carrying on of processes and operations in different areas:-

(i) Standards for quality of environment in its various aspects laid down for an area.

(ii) The maximum allowable limits of concentration of various environmental pollutants (including noise) for an area.

(iii) The likely emission or discharge of environmental pollutants from an industry, process or operation proposed to be prohibited or restricted.

(iv) The topographic and climatic features of an area.

(v) The biological diversity of the area which, in the



opinion of the Central Government needs to be preserved.

(vi) Environmentally compatible land use.

(vii) Net adverse environmental impact likely to be caused by an industry, process or operation proposed to be prohibited or restricted.

(viii) Proximity to a protected area under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 or a sanctuary, National Park, game reserve or closed area notified as such under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 or places protected under any treaty, agreement or convention with any other country or countries or in pursuance of any decision made in any international conference, association or other body.

(ix) Proximity to human settlements.

(x) Any other factor as may be considered by the Central Government to be relevant to the protection of the environment in an area.

(2) While prohibiting or restricting the location of industries and carrying on of processes and operations in an area, the Central Government shall follow the procedure hereinafter laid down.

(3) (a) Whenever it appears to the Central Government that it is expedient to impose prohibition or



restrictions on the locations of an industry or the carrying on of processes and operations in an area, it may by notification in the Official Gazette and in such other manner as the Central Government may deem necessary from time to time, give notice of its intention to do so.

(b) Every notification under clause (a) shall give a brief description of the area, the industries, operations, processes in that area about which such notification pertains and also specify the reasons for the imposition of prohibition or restrictions on the locations of the industries and carrying on of process or operations in that area.

(c) Any person interested in filing an objection against the imposition of prohibition or restrictions on carrying on of processes or operations as notified under clause (a) may do so in writing to the Central Government within sixty days from the date of publication of the notification in the Official Gazette.

(d) The Central Government shall within a period of one hundred and twenty days from the date of publication of the notification in the Official Gazette consider all the objections received against such notification and may within five hundred forty five days from such day of publication impose prohibition or restrictions on location of such industries and the carrying on of any process or operation in an area.



(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-rule (3), whenever it appears to the Central Government that it is in public interest to do so, it may dispense with the requirement of notice under clause (a) of sub-rule (3).”

18. Considering the above aspect, we are of the considered opinion that the decisions relied upon by the learned Senior Counsel appearing for the petitioner in **Avinash** (supra) and **Kerala State Road Transport Corporation** (supra) are applicable.

19. Paragraphs 16 and 17 of the decision in **Avinash**'s case are relevant for our consideration, which are reproduced hereunder:-

“16. It will also be relevant to refer to the observations of the Apex Court in the case of the Municipal Corporation Bhopal, M.P. v. Misbahul Hasan and Others reported in (1972) 1 Supreme Court Cases 696. The Apex Court while construing the provisions of Section 24 of the M.P. General Clauses Act, 1955 which is pari materia with Section 24 of the Bombay General Clauses Act, has observed thus:-



“13. The legislative procedure envisaged by Section 24, set out above, is in consonance with notions of justice and fair-play as it would enable persons likely to be affected to be informed so that they may take such steps as may be open to them to have the wisdom of a proposal duly debated and considered before it becomes law. This mandatory procedure was not shown to have been complied with area.”

17. It could thus be seen that it appears to be settled position of law that the requirement of previous publication inviting objections and suggestions is not an empty formality. It is with an intention to enable persons likely to be affected, to be informed, so that they may take steps as may be open to them and the objections/suggestions made would be required to be taken into consideration by the authorities before issuing a final notification. In the present case, the draft notification provided for establishment of headquarter of the sub-division at Sadak-Arjuni. However, the final notification provides for establishment of the headquarter at Morgaon-Arjuni. It could thus be seen that insofar as the establishment of headquarter is concerned, the final notification is totally different from the draft notification.”

20. Paragraph 14 of the decision in **Kerala State Road**



Transport Corporation's case is also relevant to the case on hand, which is reproduced hereunder:-

“14. The provisions of Sections 99, 100 and 102 indicate that the procedure to be followed, while introducing a scheme, or modifying an existing one, is one that is designed to ensure transparency and fairness in a matter involving pre-existing rights of private transport operators. It follows, therefore, that there cannot be any finalization of a scheme, which is different from the one that was proposed, and in respect of which objections were invited. The introduction of a restrictive element (in the instant case, the stipulation that the maximum distance limit would apply to the saved permits), while finalising a draft that did not contain such a stipulation has, therefore, to be seen as breaching the aforesaid statutory safeguard. A question arises, however, as to whether, in these cases, the petitioners had a pre-existing right, relatable to Ext.P5 scheme, to operate ordinary and OLS services without any restriction as regards distance? Although the learned counsel for the respondent KSRTC would vehemently contend that the said rights accrued to the private operators, not through Ext.P5 scheme, but only through Ext.P9 G.O., we are of the view that the rights/privileges granted to the petitioners through Ext.P9 G.O. cannot be seen as divorced from Ext.P5.”



In such circumstances, we are of the considered opinion that the writ petition requires consideration. Accordingly, the same is allowed. Notification dated 22.12.2014 is hereby quashed and set aside. Needless to say, the respondent authority may issue fresh notification, in accordance with law. It is made clear that the petition is entertained only on the above ground. Other contentions raised in this writ petition have not been examined on merits.

Pending Interlocutory Applications, if any, shall stand closed.

Sd/-
A. J. DESAI
CHIEF JUSTICE

Sd/-
V. G. ARUN
JUDGE



APPENDIX OF WP(C) 3097/2016

PETITIONER EXHIBITS

- EXHIBIT P1. A TRUE PHOTOCOPY OF THE GAZETTE
NOTIFICATION NO.3252 (E) DATED
22.12.2014.
- EXHIBIT P2. A TRUE PHOTOCOPY OF THE DRAFT
NOTIFICATION NO.S.O.2319 (E) DATED
11.09.2014.
- EXHIBIT P3. A TRUE PHOTOCOPY OF THE MINUTES OF THE
39TH MEETING OF THE 2ND RESPONDENT HEL
ON 18.06.2015.
- EXHIBIT P4. A TRUE PHOTOCOPY OF THE LETTER OF
REJECTION OF EC DATED 16.10.2007 ISSUED
BY THE 1ST RESPONDENT.
- EXHIBIT P5. A TRUE PHOTOCOPY OF THE OFFICE
MEMORANDUM DATED 09.06.2015.

Item No. 01

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
CENTRAL ZONE BENCH, BHOPAL**
(Through Video Conferencing)

Original Application No. 93/2024(CZ)

Pranjal Karera

Applicant(s)

Vs.

Union of India & Ors.

Respondent(s)

Date of completion of hearing and reserving of order : 05.08.2024

Date of uploading of order on website : 09.08.2024

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SHEO KUMAR SINGH, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. A SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

For Applicant(s): Mr. Vanshdeep Dalmia, Adv.

For Respondent(s): Mr. Rohit Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Dharamvir Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Yadvendra Yadav, Adv.
Mr. Shoeb Hasan Khan, Adv.
Mr. Gaurvanvit Jain, Adv

ORDER

1. The present application has been filed with the prayer for issue of direction to the MoEF&CC, to appraise all those Building and Construction Projects that are located in whole or in part within 5 km of a (i) protected area notified under the Wild life Protection Act, 1972 (ii) Critically Polluted Areas and Severely Polluted Areas as identified by the CPCB (iii) Eco-Sensitive areas notified under S. 3(2) of the EP Act, (iv) located on interstate boundaries, as Category A projects by and appraise the same at the Central level by the sectoral Expert Appraisal Committees and further to apply General Conditions [GC] to Item 8 of the Schedule of the EIA, 2006 for located in a Critically and Severally polluted areas as identified by the CPCB as per letter dated 10.04.2019 and implement the

directions passed by this Tribunal vide its Orders dated 10.07.2019, 23.08.2019 and 14.11.2019 in OA No. 1038 of 2018 titled In re: News item published in “The Asian Age” Authored by Sanjay Kaw Titled “CPCB to rank industrial units on pollution levels” & the OM dated 31.10.2019, and appraise Building and Construction Projects located in CPA/SPA areas as Category A projects, de hors whether GC applies or not.

2. The contention of the applicant is that MoEF&CC issued an OM dated 31.10.2019 devising a Mechanism for new activities/expansion by Red & Orange Category of industries in CPA’s and SPA’s. The relevant portion of the OM is extracted as below:

“B: Considerations of proposals for grant of Environmental Clearance for new and expansion activities in ‘Red’ and ‘Orange’ Categories located in Critically Polluted Areas and Severely Polluted areas:

- i. *Any project or activity specified in Category B1 will be appraised at the Central level, if located in whole or in part within 5 Km from the Boundary of Critically Polluted Areas or Severely Polluted Areas. However, Category B2 projects shall be considered at state level stipulating Environmental Clearance conditions as applicable for the Category ‘B1’ project/activities.”*

However, Building and constructions projects located in CPA/SPA, are still being continued to be appraised at the State level, in complete dissonance with the abovementioned Orders.

The Environment Impact Assessment Notification dated 14.09.2006 was issued by the Respondent MOEF under Section 3 of the EP Act categorizing projects and activities as Category ‘A’ and ‘B’, wherein Category ‘A’ projects would require a prior Environmental Clearance [EC] from the sector

specific EACs at the Central level whereas Category 'B' projects would require the same from the State i.e. by the respective SEACs. This categorization is based on the potential impacts on the human health, nature and man-made resources, wherein, the projects and activities of a higher and larger magnitude in terms of the potential adverse impact on the environment as a whole are appraised at the central level by sector specific EACs that constitute of experts in the particular field, and those of relatively lesser potential impact, at the State level.

ii. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of IN RE: Construction of Park at Noida Okhla Bird Sanctuary while considering the issue as to whether General Conditions apply to Building and Construction projects directed that "...the question of application of the general conditions to the projects/ activities listed in the Schedule also needs to be put beyond any debate or dispute".

3. In Writ Petition (C) No. 3097/2016 titled One Earth One Life Vs. MOEF Hon'ble the High Court of Kerala, made it clear that general condition is applicable in all such projects in item 8 of the Schedule located in CPA/SPA, eco-sensitive areas and are to be appraised and evaluated at the central level by sector-specific EAC.
4. Notices were issued to the respondents and in compliance thereof, the respondents have filed the reply. Heard the argument and perused the record.
5. The EIA Notification dated 14.09.2006 issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change with subsequent amendments after 8A and 8B prescribed note with general conditions and specific conditions which are quoted below :-

“General Condition (GC)”¹

Any project or activity specified in Category ‘B’ will be appraised at the Central Level as Category ‘A’, if located in whole or in part within 5 km from the boundary of: (i) Protected Areas notified under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (53 of 1972); (ii) Critically Polluted areas as identified by the Central Pollution Control Board² constituted under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (6 of 1974) from time to time; (iii) Eco-sensitive areas as notified under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, and (iv) inter-State boundaries and international boundaries; provided that for River Valley Projects specified in item 1(c), Thermal Power Plants specified in item 1(d), Industrial Estates/ parks/complexes/areas, export processing zones (EPZ), Special Economic Zones (SEZs), biotech parks, leather complexes specified in item 7 (c) and common hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities (TSDFs) specified in item 7 (d), the appraisal shall be made at Central level even if located within 10 km.

Provided further that the requirement regarding distance of 5 km or 10 km, as the case may be, of the inter-State boundaries can be reduced or completely done away with by an agreement between the respective States or the Union Territories sharing the common boundary in case the activity does not fall within 5 km or 10 km, as the case may be of the areas mentioned at item (i), (ii), and (iii) above.

Specific Condition (SC):

If any Industrial Estate/Complex / Export processing Zones /Special Economic Zones/Biotech Parks / Leather Complex with homogeneous type of industries such as Items 4(d), 4(f), 5(e), 5(f), or those Industrial estates with pre –defined set of activities (not necessarily homogeneous, obtains prior environmental clearance, individual industries including proposed industrial housing within

¹ GC substituted vide S.O. 3067(E) dated 1 st December, 2009; substituted all entries substituted vide S.O. 1599(E) dated 25th June, 2014

² Amended vide S.O. 1939 dated 13th November, 2006

such estates /complexes will not be required to take prior environmental clearance, so long as the Terms and Conditions for the industrial estate/complex are complied with (Such estates/complexes must have a clearly identified management with the legal responsibility of ensuring adherence to the Terms and Conditions of prior environmental clearance, who may be held responsible for violation of the same throughout the life of the complex/estate).”

6. Vide notification dated 07.03.2016 issued by the CPCB which modified directions under section 18(1)(b) of the water (prevention & control of pollution) act, 1974 and the air (prevention and control of pollution) act, 1981 regarding harmonization of classification of industrial sectors under red / orange / green / white categories prescribed the categories as follows :-

“WHEREAS, based on the series of consultations with SPCBs, different Government / Non- government Institutions including industries and MoEFCC, the following criteria on Range of Pollution Index for the purpose of categorization of industrial sectors has been finalized:

- Industrial Sectors having Pollution Index score of 60 and above – Red Category*
- Industrial Sectors having Pollution Index score of 41 to 59 – Orange Category*
- Industrial Sectors having Pollution Index score of 21 to 40 – Green Category*
- Industrial Sectors having Pollution Index score incl. & upto 20 - White Category*

WHEREAS, based on relative Pollution Index, the number of industries in various categories are as under:

- i. The Red category of industrial sectors: 60*
- ii. The Orange category of industrial sectors: 8*
- iii. The Green category of industrial sectors: 63 and*
- iv. The Newly introduced White category: 36*

WHEREAS, there shall be no necessity of obtaining the consent to operate for White Category of industries and an intimation to concerned SPCB/PCC shall suffice.”

7. Notification dated 11.09.2014 and 22.12.2014 was notified by the MoEF&CC which are as follows :-

i. *“The draft notification issued on 11.09.2014 reads as under:-*

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE
CHANGE
NOTIFICATION**

New Delhi, the 11th September, 2014

S.O. 2319(E). The following draft notification further to amend the notification of the Government of India in the erstwhile Ministry of Environment and Forests number S.O. 1553(E), dated 14th September, 2006 which the Central Government proposes to issue, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) and clause (v) of sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986), is hereby published, as required under sub-rule (3) of rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 for the information of the public likely to be affected thereby, and notice is hereby given that the said notification will be taken into consideration by the Central Government on or after the expiry of sixty days from the date on which copies of the Gazette of India containing this notification are made available to the public;

Any person interested in making any objection or suggestion on the proposals contained in the draft notification may do so in writing within the period so specified through post to the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi 110 003 or electronically at email address: ad. raju@ni.

Draft Notification

In the Schedule to the said notification, for items 8(a) and 8(b), and the entries relating thereto, the following items and entries shall be substituted, namely:-

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
"8	<i>Building / Construction projects / Area Development Project and Township</i>			
8(a)	<i>Building and Construction Projects</i>	<i>≥20000 sq.mtrs and <1,50,000 sq.m. of built up area#</i>	<i>The built up area for the purpose of this Notification is defined as 'the built up or covered area on all the floors put together including basement(s) and other service areas, which are proposed in the building/construction projects.</i> <i>Note:</i> <i>(i) The projects or activities covered are residential buildings, commercial buildings, hotels, hospitals, hostels, office blocks and information technology / software development units / Parks</i> <i>(ii) "General Condition" is not applicable.</i>	
8(b)	<i>Townships and Area Development projects</i>	<i>Covering an area ≥ 50 ha and or built up area ≥1,50,000 sq.mtrs++</i>	<i>++All projects under Item 8(b) shall be appraised as Category B1 Note: "General Condition" is not applicable."</i>	

ii. In the said notification, in the second paragraph, the public at large was invited to raise objections or suggestions. Accordingly, the Department had received many objections and suggestions from various institutions or individuals throughout the country, evident from the counter filed by the respondents. However, if we see the language of the final notification dated 22.12.2014, it has been specifically stated that no objections or suggestions were received in

response to the earlier notification dated 11.09.2014. Final notification dated 22.12.2014 reads as under:

**“MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE
CHANGE
NOTIFICATION**

New Delhi, the 22nd December, 2014

S.O. 3252(E).-Whereas, a draft notification further to amend the notification number S.O 1555(E), dated the 14th September, 2006 (hereinafter referred to as the principal notification), was published, as required under sub-rule (3) of rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, subsection (ii) vide number S.O. 2319, (E) dated the 11th September, 2014 (hereinafter referred to as the said notification), inviting objections and suggestions from all persons likely to be affected thereby within a period of sixty days from the date on which copies of Gazette containing the said notification were made available to the public;

And whereas, copies of the said notification were made available to the public on 11th September, 2014;

And whereas, no objections or suggestions have been received in response to the said notification within the specified period of sixty days;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-section (1) and clause (v) of Sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the said Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986) read with clause (d) of sub-rule (3) of rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, the Central Government hereby makes the following amendments in the said notification, namely:-

In the principal notification, in the Schedule, under Column (1), for item 8 relating to Building / Construction Projects / Area Development Projects and Townships and sub-items 8 (a) and 8 (b) and the entries relating thereto, specified there under, the following item, sub-items and entries shall be substituted, namely:-

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
"8"	<i>Building or Construction projects or Area Development projects and Townships</i>			
8(a)	<i>Building and Construction Projects</i>	<i>≥20000 sq.mtrs and <1,50,000 sq.m. of built up area#</i>	<p><i>The term "built up area" for the purpose of this notification the built up or covered area on all floors put together including its basement and other service areas, which are proposed in the building or construction projects.</i></p> <p><i>Note 1:-</i></p> <p><i>The projects or activities shall not include industrial shed, school, college, hostel for educational institution, but such buildings shall ensure sustainable environmental management, solid and liquid waste management, rain water harvesting and may use recycled materials such as fly ash bricks.</i></p> <p><i>(ii) "General Conditions" shall not apply.</i></p>	
8	<i>Townships and Area Development projects</i>	<i>Covering an area ≥ 50 ha and or built up area ≥1,50,000 sq.mtrs++</i>	<p><i>A project of Township and Area Development Projects covered under this item shall require an Environment Assessment report and be appraised as Category 'B1' Project.</i></p> <p><i>Note.- "General Conditions" shall not apply.</i></p>	

8. In light of the order passed in O.A. No. 1038/2018 dated 19.08.2019, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issued a notification dated 24.10.2019 with the matter listed in red and orange categories located in critically polluted areas prescribing as follows :-

1. *“Consideration of proposals for grant of Environmental clearance for new and expansion activities listed in 'Red' and 'Orange' Categories located in Critically Polluted Areas and Severely Polluted areas:*

i. *Any project or activity specified in Category B1 will be appraised at the Central Level, if located in whole or in part within 5 km from the boundary of Critically Polluted Areas or Severely Polluted Areas. However, Category B2 projects shall be considered at state level stipulating Environmental Clearance conditions as applicable for the Category 'B1' project/activities.*

ii. *Proposals located in CPAs and SPAs may be examined by the sectoral Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) during scoping/appraisal based on the CEPI scores of Air/Water/Land Environment as published by CPCB from time to time. In such proposals, appropriate mitigation measures for the environment possessing higher CEPI score may be made by EAC in the form of recommendations/decision. These recommendations may be explicitly mentioned in the Terms of Reference/Environmental Clearance letter and to be ensured by the member secretary concerned.*

9. The notification dated 22.12.2014 was matter under consideration which was challenged before the High Court of Kerala in W.P.(C) No. 3097/2016 and vide Order dated 06.03.2024 the court, after considering the above facts, found that the notification dated 22.12.2014 was not in accordance with the law and quashed the notification dated 22.12.2014.

10. The contention of the applicant is that after quashing the notification dated 22.12.2014 the general condition as note of the original notification, 2006 will apply.
11. The submissions of the Learned Counsel for the applicant are that as per the EIA Notification dated 14.09.2006, projects and activities are categorized as Category A and B wherein Category A projects require Environmental Clearance from the Sector specific EACs at the Central level, whereas Category B projects which relatively have a lower potential impact on the Environment would require the same from the State i.e. by the respective State SEACs/ SEIAAs. This categorization is based on the '*extend of potential impacts on human health and natural and manmade resources*'. Apropos, the projects and activities of a higher and larger magnitude in terms of the potential adverse impact on the environment as a whole are appraised at the central level by sector specific EACs that constitute of Experts in the particular field. Whereas, such projects and activities having a relatively lesser impact, are appraised at the State level by respective State SEACs/ SEIAAs that consist of homogeneous mix of experts and professionals from different sectors. The schedule of the EIA 2006 notification categorizes Building and Construction Projects and Townships and Area Development Projects as Category B1 projects under item 8(a) and item 8(b) of the Schedule and thus, the appraisal is being done at the State level i.e. by respective SEACs, however it is to be appraised at the Central level if it falls in an ecologically sensitive area/ Critically polluted area or other areas as indicated in the General Conditions.
12. It is submitted that Building and Construction Projects and Townships and Area Development Projects carried out in a critically/ severally polluted area, eco-sensitive areas etc. have a higher and larger magnitude

in terms of the potential adverse impact on the environment as a whole and thus need to be appraised at the central level by sector specific EACs that constitute of experts in the particular field.

13. While considering the matter in the O.A. No. 1038/2018, Principal Bench of this Tribunal vide order dated 14.11.2019, observed as follows:-

- i. *“After considering the said data, this Tribunal in the order dated 10.07.2019 held that the Rule of Law required prohibiting polluting activities to protect the environment and public health. While remedial action may certainly be planned, current violation of law could not be ignored and was actionable by way of stopping polluting activities, initiating prosecution and recovering compensation on ‘Polluter Pays’ principle. The statutory authorities are accountable for performing their statutory duties. Referring to some of the earlier orders on the subject, this Tribunal observed:*

“7. Ill effects of industrial pollution on the environment and public health are well acknowledged. This has made it necessary to strictly apply the principles of ‘Sustainable Development’ and permit any activity to be carried out without degrading the environment. The statutory scheme under the Air Act, the Water Act and the EPA Act provides for standards for air and water quality which must be maintained and violation thereof is a criminal offence³. Any violation has to be visited with stopping of polluting activity, prosecution and compensation for restoration of environment. Accordingly, in the order dated 13.12.2018 this Tribunal observed:

³ Section 7 read with Section 15 of the EPA Act, Section 24 read with Section 41 and Section 45A of the Water Act, Section 21 and Section 22 read with Section 37 of the Air Act

“5. Purpose of economic development in any region is to provide opportunities for improved living by removing poverty and unemployment. While industrial development invariably creates more jobs in any region, such development has to be sustainable and compliant with the norms of environment. In absence of this awakening or tendency for monitoring, industrialization has led to environmental degradation on account of industrial pollution. It is imperative to ensure that steps are taken to check such pollution to uphold statutory norms. Adequate and effective pollution control methods are necessary.

6. Dust, smoke, fume and toxic gas emissions occur as a result of highly polluting industries such as thermal power plants, coal mines, cement, sponge iron, steel and ferrow alloys, petroleum and chemicals unless right technology is used and precaution taken. Industry specific clusters have not only become hazardous but also cause irreparable damage to our ecology and environment, often breaching the environment’s carrying capacity, adversely affecting public health.

7. In Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board vs. C. Kenchappa & Ors⁴ the Hon’ble Supreme Court observed, as guiding rules for Sustainable Development, that humanity must take no more from nature than man can replenish

⁴ (2006) 6 SSC 383

and that people must adopt lifestyles and development paths that work within the nature's limit. In Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum Vs. Union of India, the Hon'ble Supreme Court recognized the Precautionary Principle and explained that environmental measures by the State Government and the statutory authorities must anticipate, prevent and attack the causes of environmental degradation.

8. This Tribunal has applied the same principles in deciding matters before it in terms of Section 20 of the National Green Tribunal Act 2010.

9 to 12..... xxxx.....xxxx.....xxxx

13. The action plan to be prepared in the States may be done by the Committee constituted by the Chief Secretary within one month from today as several Departments may be involved in the exercise. The final preparation of the action plan including its execution may be overseen by the Chief Secretary of the concerned State, along with the other connected major environmental issues of the States, such as pollution of river stretches, nonattainment cities in terms of air quality and solid waste management, utilization of treated sewage, covered by order of this Tribunal dated 20.09.2018 in Original Application No. 673/2018, News Item Published in 'The Hindu' authored by Shri. Jacob Koshy titled "More river stretches are now critically polluted: CPCB",

order dated 08.10.2018 in Original Application No. 681/2018, News Item Published In 'The Times of India' Authored by Shri. Vishwa Mohan Titled "NCAP with Multiple Timelines to Clear Air in 102 Cities to be released around August 15", order dated 20.08.2018 in Original Application No. 606/2018, Compliance of Municipal Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and order dated 27.11.2018 in Original Application No. 148/2016, Mahesh Chandra Saxena Vs. South Delhi Municipal Corporation & Ors. The Chief Secretary will take meetings on all these issues once in three months (quarterly) and will forward Report to NGT by e-mail."

8. We may also note that on 16.01.2019, while considering the issue of compliance of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and other Waste Management Rules in O.A. No. 606/2018, Compliance of MSW Rules, 2016, the Tribunal required the presence of the Chief Secretaries in person after monitoring the subjects mentioned in the said order which included polluted industrial clusters.

9. Accordingly, the Chief Secretaries appeared before this Tribunal and filed their respective versions on the subject. They have been asked to take necessary steps to enforce the environment norms and furnish periodical reports to this Tribunal. The directions include monitoring of important environmental issues including the issue of polluted industrial clusters by a Central Monitoring Committee with representatives from the Central Government and the Chief Secretaries

of the States, undertaking carrying capacity study of the areas where violation of environmental norms is established, training programme of the officers concerned with the enforcement of the environmental norms, preparation of annual environmental plan for the country giving status of gaps in compliance of environmental norms⁵. The Tribunal noted the private studies which may need to be verified assessing the number of deaths and diseases from pollution⁶.

“38. Death attributable to pollution to be 2.51 million in 2015, highest in the world. Air pollution, the number of deaths in India from ambient air pollution was 1.09 million, while deaths from household air pollution from solid fuels were 0.97 million. In the case of water pollution, 0.5 million deaths were caused by unsafe water source, while unsafe sanitation caused 0.32 million deaths. Deaths from air pollution were a result of diseases such as heart disease, stroke, lung cancer, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Pollution has been responsible for the most non communicable disease deaths. India ranks a dismal 110 of 149 countries on the Sustainable Development Index. With rapid urbanization, the country is facing massive waste management challenge. Over 377 million urban people live in 7,935 towns and cities and generate 62 million tonnes of municipal solid waste per annum. Only 43 million tonnes (MT) of the waste is collected, 11.9 MT is treated and 31 MT is dumped in landfill sites. An alarming 80% of India’s surface water is polluted. Indian cities generate 10 billion gallons or 38 billion litres of

⁵ O.A 606/2018, order dated 17.05.2019, at para 27

⁶ Ibid

municipal waste water every day, out of which only 29% of it is treated.

40. In case extent of convictions for the environment related offences do not correspond to the extent of crime, paradigm shift in policies and strategies for implementation of law may need to be considered. Similarly, the mechanism for recovery of compensation may need to be revised on that pattern. Such review of policy cannot be left to the Local Bodies or the Pollution Control Boards but has to be at highest level in the State and further review at the national level. As noted in some of the studies, the ranking of the country in compliance of environmental norms needs to be brought to respectable higher position which may be possible only if there is change in policies and strategies for implementation of necessary norms at every level in right direction. The scale of compensation needs to be suitably revised so that the same is deterrent and adequate to meet the cost of reversing the pollution.”

14. In reply to above averments the Respondent No. 1 MoEF&CC filed the counter affidavit and argued that the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 authorizes the Central Government to protect and improve environmental quality, control and reduce pollution from all sources, and prohibit or restrict the setting and/or operation of any projects/activity on environmental grounds.

15. That, the answering respondent in exercise of its powers under sub-section (1) and clause (v) of Section 3(2) of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (EPA, 1986) had vide S.O. 1533(E) issued the Environment Impact Assessment Notification dated 14/09/2006 for mandating prior Environmental Clearance (EC) for certain category of projects covered in

the Schedule of the notification. The EC is granted following the due EIA process as mentioned in the notification.

16. That under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006, EC for Building and Construction Projects, Townships and Area Development Projects are covered under entry 8 (a) & (b) of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006. Further, entries 8(a) and 8(b) are category 'B' projects under the EIA Notification, 2006 and the said projects are appraised by the concerned State/ UT Level Expert Appraisal Committees (SEACs) and the EC is granted by the State Environmental Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs/UTEIA's).
17. That the EIA Notification 2006, provides for General Conditions which relate to categorization of the projects as Category 'A' if such projects are located in whole or in part, within either 5 km or 10 km, as the case may be, from the boundary of Protected Areas notified under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, Critically Polluted areas as notified by the Central Pollution Control Board from time to time, Notified Eco-sensitive areas and inter-State boundaries and international boundaries. GC in the EIA Notification, 2006, as amended reads as under:

"Any project or activity specified in Category 'B' will be appraised at the Central Level as Category 'A', if located in whole or in part within 5 km from the boundary of: (i) Protected Areas notified under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (53 of 1972); (ii) Critically Polluted areas as identified by the Central Pollution Control Board constituted under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (6 of 1974) from after (Pretime: (i) Eco-sensitive areas as notified under sub. Sectioning of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, and (iv) one of boundaries and international boundaries; provided that for River Valley Projects specified in item 1(c), Thermal Power Plants specified in item 1(d), Industrial Estates/ parks/ complexes/ areas,

export processing zones (EPZ), Special Economic Zones (SEZs), biotech parks, leather complexes specified in item 7 (c) and common hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities (TSDFs) specified in item 7 (d), the appraisal shall be made at Central level even if located within 10 km.

Provided further that the requirement regarding distance of 5 km or 10 km, as the case may be, of the inter-State boundaries can be reduced or completely done away with by an agreement between the respective States or the Union Territories sharing the common boundary in case the activity does not fall within 5 km or 10 km, as the case may be of the areas mentioned at item (i), (ii), and (iii) above.”

18. Further contentions of the Learned Counsel for Respondent No. 1 are that the submission of the applicant is that after the quashing of the notification general condition will apply is unfounded and not supported by the order since that order was based only on the principle of natural justice and it is further submitted that there is no difference in the qualification, eligibility criteria of the EAC and the SEACs.
19. The contention of the applicant is that the directions passed in OA No. 1038/2018 must be strictly complied with, with regard to the projects and health, projects and polluting activities which are in CPA/SPA red and orange category, and no further industrial activities or expansion be allowed with regard to red and orange category units till the said areas are brought within the prescribed parameter or till carrying capacity of area is assessed and new units or expansion is found viable having regard to the carrying capacity of the area and environmental norms.
20. The same was clarified by the notification dated 23.08.2019 where it was observed that the MoEF&CC can forthwith devise an appropriate mechanism to ensure that new legitimate activity or expansion can take

place after due precautions are taken in the areas in question by red and orange category of units.

21. Further contentions of the applicant are that the OM dated 31.10.2019 was issued by the MoEF&CC in exercise of powers conferred under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, requiring appraisal of all projects in CPA/SPA at the central level and it is binding on the MoEF&CC while it is not being fully observed by the authorities concerned. Projects located in the CPA/SPA requires to be appraised as Category A projects at the central level by the Sectoral Expert Committee, even otherwise building construction projects located in CPA/SPA have to be appraised at the central level due to the applicability of general conditions as stipulated in the EIA Notification, 2006.
22. As per Para 7(i)III(i)(d), of the EIA, 2006 (Original - unamended), all Category A and B, Building and Construction projects or Area Development Projects and Townships (Item 8) were exempted from 'Public Consultation'. The EIA, 2006 was amended by the MoEF&CC vide Notification dated 1.12.2009 wherein the MoEF&CC withdrew the complete exemption from public consultation granted to building and constructed projects. And whereinafter such public consultation were made mandatory for Category A Building Construction Projects. That building construction projects as *per se* are Category B projects and the only manner in which they can be Category A is by the application of GC and in no other manner.
23. Para 7(i)III(i)(d) of the EIA, 2006 – before Amendment, All category A and Category B projects or activities shall undertake public consultation, except the following:

“d. all building and construction projects or Area development projects and Townships (item 8)”

Para 7(i)III(i)(d) of the EIA, 2006 – Post Amendment, All category A and Category B projects or activities shall undertake public consultation, except the following:

“d. all building and construction projects or Area development projects (which do not contain any Category A projects and activities) and Townships (item 8(a) and 8 (b) in the Schedule to the notification”

Thus, the 2009 Amendment indicates the understanding of the Respondent MOEF itself that certain Building projects would be Category A, and hence require a Public Consultation. Any other interpretation would render the said Amendment qua Para 7(i)III(i)(d) as redundant, superfluous and nugatory.

24. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of *IN RE: Construction of Park at Noida Okhla Bird Sanctuary, (2011) 1 SCC 744* felt the need that certain entries in the Schedule to the EIA, 2006 were described ambiguously and while considering the issue as to whether General Conditions apply to Building and Construction projects directed that -

“...the question of application of the general conditions to the projects/ activities listed in the Schedule also needs to be put beyond any debate or dispute”.

EIA, 2006 (2014 Amendment)

The MOEF thereafter issued Notification dated 22.12.2014 whereby the EIA, 2006 was amended and interalia a Note 2 was inserted in the 5th Column of Item 8, Schedule EIA which specifically stated that '*General Conditions shall not apply*'. The said Notification dated 22.12.2014 was quashed vide Judgment dated 6.03.2024 by the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala in '*One Earth One life v. MOEF*', WP (C) No. 3097 of 2016.

The Relevant portion of the said Judgment dated 6.03.2024 is extracted as under:

“In such circumstances, we are of the considered opinion that the writ petition requires consideration. Accordingly, the same is allowed. Notification dated 22.12.2014 is hereby quashed and set aside. Needless to say, the respondent authority may issue fresh notification, in accordance with law. It is made clear that the petition is entertained only on the above ground. Other contentions raised in this writ petition have not been examined on merits.”

Therefore, the Applicant submits that post the quashing of the MOEF Notification dated 22.12.2014, *General Conditions* are undisputedly applicable, and all such projects in Schedule 8 located in a CPA/SPA, Eco sensitive areas ought to be appraised and evaluated at the Central Level.

25. It is further contended that the mandate of the EIA, 2006 is to ensure Environmental protection and uphold citizens' fundamental rights under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. The aim and objective of the EIA, 2006 is to assess the impact that a project or activity would have upon the environment and to ensure protection of the environment in the face of development. Thus, the rule of reasonable interpretation in conjunction with liberal/ purposive construction ought to be applied whereby that approach for interpretation must be applied which advances the objectives and legislative intent behind issuance of the EIA, 2006.

This Tribunal in *Vikrant Tongad v. DTTC*, [2015 SCC Online NGT 3 (judgment dated 12.02.2015)], *Karukampally Vijayan Biju v. UOI*, [2017 SCC Online NGT 1296 (Judgment dated 27.07.2017)] and *M/s Ardent Steel Limited v. MoEF*, Appeal No. 05/2014 (Judgment dated 27.05.2014) have accepted

this approach of liberal interpretation of the entries mentioned in the Schedule to the EIA, 2006 and held as under:

Vikrant Tongad v. DTTC (2015 SCC Online NGT 3)

“18. Having deliberated upon the relevant provisions of the Regulations of 2006, now we would deal with the principles applicable to interpretations of such Entries. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its various judgments has stressed upon the liberal interpretation of a statute, if it is a social welfare legislation. For instance, in the case of The Authorised Officer, Thanjavur v. S. Naganatha Ayyar, (1979) 3 SCC 466, the Court held that:

“1. While dealing with welfare legislation of so fundamental a character as agrarian reform, the court must constantly remember that the statutory pilgrimage to ‘destination social justice’ should be helped, and not hampered, by judicial interpretation.”

In the case of Workmen of American Express International Banking Corporation v. Management of American Express International Banking Corporation, (1985) 4 SCC 71, the Court held that:

“4. The principles of statutory construction are well settled. Words occurring in statutes of liberal import such as social welfare legislation and ‘Human Rights’ legislation are not to be put in procrustean beds or shrunk to Liliputian dimensions. In construing these legislations the imposture of literal construction must be avoided and the prodigality of its mis-application must be recognised and reduced. Judges ought to be more concerned with the ‘colour’, the ‘content’ and the ‘context’ of such statutes.”

In the case of Securities and Exchange Board of India v. Ajay Agarwal, (2010) 3 SCC 765, the Court held that:

“41. It is a well known canon of construction that when Court is called upon to interpret provisions of a social welfare legislation the paramount duty of the Court is to adopt such an interpretation as to further the purposes of law and if possible eschew the one which frustrates it.”

19. The Courts have also evoked the principle of purposive construction in relation to social welfare legislations. The statute and its provisions have to be given an expanded meaning that would tilt in favour of the object of the Act, curing or suppressing the evil by enforcing the law. While interpreting an Entry in a Schedule to an Act, the ordinary rule of construction requires to be applied to understand the Entries. There is a functional difference between a body of the statute on the one hand and the Schedule which is attached thereto on the other hand. The Sections in these Acts are enacting provisions. In contrast, the Schedule in an Act sets down things and objects and contains their names and descriptions. The sections of and the Schedule to the Act, have to be co-jointly read and construed, keeping in view the purpose and object of the Act while keeping a clear distinction between a fiscal and a social welfare legislation in mind. Social welfare programmes projected by the State and object of the statute are of paramount consideration while interpreting and construing such Entries. The law is always intended to serve the larger public purpose. In fact, welfare of the people is the supreme law and an enacted law should be administered lawfully, i.e., salus populi est suprema lex. It is not possible even for the legislature to comprehend and provide solution to all the evils or obstacles that are likely to arise in implementation of the enacted laws. Therefore, the Tribunal must adopt an approach for interpretation of these Entries which would further the cause of the Act and the intent of the legislation and be not unduly influenced by the rule of restricted interpretation.

30. Thus, clearly, the mandate of the Regulations of 2006 is to ensure protection of environment and ecology in face of rapid developmental activities, which are even the need of the hour. Since the object of the Regulations of 2006 is to provide developmental activities while ensuring presence of a safer environment, it can be termed as welfare legislation. Thus, the rule of reasonable constructions in conjunction with the liberal construction would have to be applied...

33. In case of a social or beneficial legislation, the Tribunal should adopt a liberal or purposive construction as opposed to the rule of literal construction. The words used therein are required to be given a liberal and expanded meaning. The object and purpose of the Act of 1986 and the Schedule of Regulations of 2006 thereto was held to be of utmost relevance. In the case of present kind, if no checks and balances are provided and expert minds does not examine and assess the impacts of such projects or activities relating to development, consequences can be very devastating, particularly environmentally. Normally, the damage done to environment and ecology is very difficult to be redeemed or remedied. Thus, a safer approach has to be adopted to subject such projects to examination by Expert Bodies, by giving wider meaning to the expressions used, rather than to frustrate the object and purpose of the Regulations of 2006, causing irretrievable ecological and environmental damage. ”

Karukampally Vijayan Biju v. UOI, (2017 SCC Online NGT 1296)

“22. The reasoning given by the High Court can be safely adopted by the Tribunal to arrive at the conclusion that the expression ‘pesticide’ takes within its ambit insecticides as well. The expression ‘pesticide’ appearing in Entry-5(b) must receive liberal construction. The Act of 1986 and the Notification of 2006 is social welfare legislation and has been primarily enacted to protect the environment and public health. An interpretation which would further the cause and object

should be adopted in contradistinction to an interpretation which would frustrate the object of the Act.”

M/s Ardent Steel Limited v. MoEF & Anr., (Appeal No. 05/2014)

“13.. From the above discussion, it is clear that to an Entry of the Schedule of a social welfare legislation, the principle of reasonable and/or liberal construction should be adopted to ensure that the object and purpose of the Act is undefeated by such interpretation. Most suitable interpretation would be one which would further the cause of the Act and ensure prevention and control of pollution rather than provide escape route to the industry from taking anti-pollution measures and complying with the provisions of the Act.”

26. The contention of the applicant is that there is no ambiguity on the issue as to whether ‘General Conditions’ apply to Item 8 of the Schedule to the EIA, 2006, in as much as, the intention vide the 2009 Amendment ostensibly indicates and supports the same, and the 22.12.2014 Amendment stating that GC does not apply has been quashed. However, even otherwise, a view that GC apply is in consonance with the intent and purpose of the EIA, 2006 which is a social welfare legislation, and also the directions passed by this Tribunal in OA No. 1038 of 2018 wherein certain areas requires a higher degree of scrutiny and expert appraisal.
27. That Building and constructions projects located in CPA/SPA, Eco-sensitive areas were being continued to be appraised at the State level due to the operation of the MOEF Amendment Notification dated 22.12.2014 whereby GC was made not applicable to Schedule 8, however post the quashing of the Notification dated 22.12.2014, GC is undisputedly applicable, and all such projects in Schedule 8 located in a CPA/SPA, eco-sensitive areas ought to be appraised and evaluated at the Central Level by sector specific EACs.

28. The EIA, 2006 categorizes projects into Category 'A' and 'B'. Category 'A' projects require EC from Central sector-specific EAC, while Category 'B' projects require EC from State SEACs/ SEIAAs. This classification is based on potential environmental impacts, with projects having higher environmental impacts being assessed centrally and those with lesser impacts assessed at the State level.
29. The members of the EAC/SEACs comprise of Expert and Professionals who are appointed on the basis of the qualifications mentioned in Appendix VI, EIA, 2006, whereby the members of the EAC shall be experts and only in the event that Experts are not available, professionals made be considered. Conversely, the members of the State SEACs are not required to be Experts as such, and can constitute professionals, despite the availability of Experts.
30. The Respondent, MOEF has constituted 8 (eight) Expert Appraisal Committees which deal with sector specific projects under the EIA Notification, 2006 that are of more serious and significant in nature. The EACs at the Central level constitutes of members with greater competence and knowledge than the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee. A Higher level of expertise is needed for appraisal of building and construction projects in CPA/SPA areas, and sector specific EAC would be much better suited to appraise potential ecological damage and considered the impact assessment of the project submitted by the project proponent, as the said sector specific EAC would include all expert members qua the sector for which EC is being sought.
31. It is further contended that by allowing the Category 'A' projects to be appraised at the SEAC level, substantially dilutes the standard of assessment, evaluation and appraisal of violation projects that were initially sought to be done by sector specific Expert appraisal committees

which are only available at the central level. The sector specific EACs constitute of experts in the particular sector and opposed to the SEACs at the state level which do not constitute experts from a particular sector, but comprises of a homogeneous mix of experts and professionals from different sectors. Since building and construction projects located in a CPA/SPA have a higher and larger magnitude in terms of the potential adverse impact on the environment, an expert scrutiny with a higher level of expertise is needed for appraisal of building and construction projects in CPA/SPA areas.

32. Sectoral specific EAC for Infrastructural projects would be much better suited to appraise the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA)/ Environmental Management Plan (EMP) submitted by the project proponent, as the said sector specific EAC would include all expert members qua the Building sector. It is submitted that the said Building sector specific would correctly and more accurately identify the possible ramifications on the Environment damage and recommend measures to mitigate the same.
33. The submission of the MoEF&CC are that the scrutiny by at the central and state level is the same but the notification dated 14.09.2006 issued by the MoEF&CC prescribes different criteria and qualification which is quoted as below :-

“COMPOSITION OF THE SECTOR/ PROJECT SPECIFIC EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (EAC) FOR CATEGORY A PROJECTS AND THE STATE/UT LEVEL EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEES (SEACs) FOR CATEGORY B PROJECTS TO BE CONSTITUTED BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

The Expert Appraisal Committees (EACs) and the State/UT Level Expert Appraisal Committees (SEACs) shall consist of

only professionals and experts fulfilling the following eligibility criteria:

Professional: The person should have at least (i) 5 years of formal University training in the concerned discipline leading to a MA/MSc Degree, or (ii) in case of Engineering /Technology/Architecture disciplines, 4 years formal training in a professional training course together with prescribed practical training in the field leading to a B.Tech/B.E./B.Arch. Degree, or (iii) Other professional degree (e.g. Law) involving a total of 5 years of formal University training and prescribed practical training, or (iv) Prescribed apprenticeship/ article ship and pass examinations conducted by the concerned professional association (e.g. Chartered Accountancy), or (v) a University degree , followed by 2 years of formal training in a University or Service Academy (e.g. MBA/IAS/IFS). In selecting the individual professionals, experience gained by them in their respective fields will be taken note of.

Expert: A professional fulfilling the above eligibility criteria with at least 15 years of relevant experience in the field, or with an advanced degree (e.g. Ph.D.) in a concerned field and at least 10 years of relevant experience.

Age: Below 70 years. However, in the event of the non-availability of /paucity of experts in a given field, the maximum age of a member of the Expert Appraisal Committee may be allowed up to 75 years.

2.7 The Members of the EAC shall be Experts with the requisite expertise and experience in the following fields or /disciplines. In the event that persons fulfilling the criteria of “Experts” are not available, Professionals in the same field with sufficient experience may be considered:

- *Environment Quality: Experts in measurement, monitoring, analysis and interpretation of data in relation to environmental quality.*
- *Sectoral Project Management: Experts in Project Management or Management of Process or Operations or Facilities in the relevant sectors.*

⁷ Para substituted vide S.O. 1737 (E) dated 11th October, 2007; word in Para-2 amended & point-4 inserted vide S.O. 2600(E) 9th October, 2014 and amended vide S.O. 3752 dated 20.10.2020

- *Environmental Impact Assessment Process: Experts in conducting and carrying out Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and preparation of Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) and other Management plans and who have wide expertise and knowledge of predictive techniques and tools used in the EIA process*
- *Risk Assessment*
- *Life Science (Floral and Faunal Management)*
- *Forestry and Wildlife*
- *Environmental Economics with experience in project appraisal*
- *Public Administration or Management covering various developmental sectors and environmental issues.*

3. *The Membership of the EAC shall not exceed 15 (fifteen) regular Members. However, the Chairperson may co-opt an expert as a Member in a relevant field for a particular meeting of the Committee.*

4.⁸ *The Chairperson shall be an eminent person having experience in environmental policy related issues, in management or in public administration dealing with various developmental sectors.*

5. *The Chairperson shall nominate one of the Members as the Vice Chairperson who shall preside over the EAC in the absence of the Chairman / Chairperson.*

6. *A representative of the Ministry of Environment and Forests shall assist the Committee as its Secretary.*

7. *The maximum tenure of a Member, including Chairperson, shall be for 2 (two) terms of 3 (three) years each.*

Provided that wherever considered necessary and expedient, the Central Government may extend the term of such member for a further period not exceeding twelve months⁹.

8. *The Chairman / Members may not be removed prior to expiry of the tenure without cause and proper enquiry.”*

34. The notification says that the members of the EAC shall be experts with the requisite expertise and experiences in the field quoted in the notification which is different from the minimum qualification of the

⁸ Omitted vide S.O. 1737 dated 11th October, 2007; and inserted vide S.O. 2600(E) dated 9th October, 2014

⁹ Entry inserted vide notification number S.O 1562 (E) dated 21st May 2020; Substituted word vide S.O 3752 (E) dated 20th Oct, 2020

professionals. In the EAC there are Expert Appraisal Committee while SEAC shall consists the professionals and it shall fulfilling the conditions which are different in category in professional and the experts. The Experts eligibility criteria are at-least 15 years of relevant experience in the field are with an advance degree i.e. Ph.D in a concerned field and at-least 10 years of relevant experience while the qualification of the professionals are 5 years of formal university training in the concerned discipline leading to a M.A./M.Sc. degree. Which is lesser qualification than the experts.

35. The submission of the learned counsel for the RSPCB Mr. Rohit Sharma are that the matter is with regard to the work of issuing EC which is to be dealt by the MoEF&CC and SEIAA and PCB has no concern with the above activities. Similarly, the CPCB has submitted that the CPCB has revised CEPL evaluation methodology that Central Pollution Control Board (C.P.C.B.) carried out a Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (C.E.P.L.) Monitoring of the Industrial Clusters in the country in association with I.LT. Delhi in 2009. Based on C.E.P.I., a total of 88 industrial clusters were identified as Polluted Industrial Areas (P.I.As). Out of the identified 88 P.LAs, 43 industrial clusters were having a CEP.1. score of more than 70 and are categorized as Critically Polluted Areas (CPAs); and 32 industrial clusters with C.E.PL. scores between 60 & below 70 are categorized as Severely Polluted Areas (S.P.As)
36. Further, the CPCB revised C.E.P.I. evaluation methodology in concurrence with the MoEF&CC and issued directions on 26/4/2016 to all SPCBS/PCCs for adoption of the revised C.E.P.I. methodology, which also includes preparation of action plans for C.P.As and S.P.As by respective SPCBs/PCCs and it is further submitted that the CPCB is not involved the

process of granting Environmental Clearance, thus, no further reply is required.

37. Submission of the learned counsel Ms. Parul Bhadoria - State Pollution Control Board, Madhya Pradesh are that the compliance of the EIA Notification, 2006 or to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and PCB are not involved in the grant of environmental clearance and the imposition of conditions of the EC and further that the same is within the domain of MoEF&CC and SEIAA.
38. Hon'ble the Supreme Court of India, in re-construction of park at Noida Okhla Bird Sanctuary (2011), 1SCC Page 744, felt the need of the entries in the schedule to the EIA 2006 and described the ambiguity while considering the issue as to whether general condition apply to building and construction projects directed that the question of application of the general condition to the projects activities listed in the schedule also needs to be put beyond any debate or dispute and referred the construction of the park project to MoEF&CC to appraised by Sectoral Specific Expert Appraisal Committee at Central Level considering the importance of location of the project near the Okhla Bird Sanctuary, an ecologically protected area and thereby indirectly applied general condition to the project. The EIA 2006 categorizes projects activities into Category A and B. Category A projects are appraised at Central Level by Sectoral Specific EAC, while Category B Projects are appraised at State Level by SEAC and not by a Sectoral Specific SEAC.
39. The classification is based on potential environmental impacts, with projects having higher environmental impacts assessed at central level and those with lesser impacts are assessed at the state level. Building and construction projects which are located within 5 km within of (i) Ecologically protected areas (ii) CPA/SPA (iii) Eco-sensitive areas (iv) Inter-

state boundaries and international boundaries and have a higher and larger magnitude in terms of potential adverse impacts on the environmental and therefore, a greater level of in-depth scrutiny is needed for appraisal of such building and construction projects and for which sectoral specific appraisal is needed at central level by sectorial specific experts who are part of sectorial specific EAC. There are eight (8) sectoral specific EAC at central level and each of the sectoral specific EAC appraises and deals with specific project activity as per the EIA 2006.

40. In view of the above submissions, arguments and records and notification, we are of the view that after quashing the notification dated 22.12.2014, vide order dated 06.03.2024, in W.P.(C) No. 3097/2016, GC is undisputedly applicable and all such projects in Schedule 8 of EIA 2006 located within 5 km. of ecologically protected areas, CPA/SPA, eco-sensitive areas, inter-state boundaries and international boundaries are to be appraised and evaluated at the central level by sector specific EAC.
41. Accordingly, we direct the MoEF&CC to strictly enforce the notification dated 14.09.2006 attached to Category 8 in the note general conditions and we direct the MoEF&CC to appraise all those building and construction projects that are located in whole or in part within 5 km. of the protected area notified under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, critically polluted areas and severely polluted areas as identified by the CPCB, eco-sensitive areas notified under Section 3(2) of the Environment (Protection) Act, and the projects located at inter-state boundaries as Category A projects and to be appraised by the central level by the Sectoral Expert Appraisal Committee.
42. The MoEF&CC is directed to strictly comply the notification or to make a clarity by issue of notification. The copy of the order be communicated to

the MoEF&CC for clarification and issue of necessary notification or to comply the EIA, Notification, 2006 in letter and spirit.

43. With these observations the application is allowed and **Original Application no. 93/2024** stands **disposed of** accordingly.

Sheo Kumar Singh, JM

Dr. A Senthil Vel, EM

09th August, 2024
O.A No. 93/2024(CZ)
PN



भारत का राजपत्र

The Gazette of India

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-30012025-260608
CG-DL-E-30012025-260608

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 519]

नई दिल्ली, बुधवार, जनवरी 29, 2025/माघ 9, 1946

No. 519]

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2025/MAGHA 9, 1946

पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

अधिसूचना

नई दिल्ली, 29 जनवरी, 2025

का. आ . 523(अ)— भारत सरकार के तत्कालीन पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय ने अपनी अधिसूचना संख्या का.आ. 60 (अ), तारीख 27 जनवरी, 1994 के द्वारा भारत के किसी भी हिस्से में कोई नई परियोजना शुरू करने या अधिसूचना में शामिल किसी विद्यमान उद्योग या परियोजना के विस्तार या आधुनिकीकरण के लिए पूर्व पर्यावरणीय मंजूरी की आवश्यकता के साथ-साथ कतिपय निर्बंधन और प्रतिषेध भी अधिरोपित थे;

और भारत के उच्चतम न्यायालय ने 'हिंदुस्तान टाइम्स' एंड क्वार्टर फ्लोस दा मैली यमुना बनाम सेन्ट्रल पोल्यूशन कंट्रोल बोर्ड और अन्य के मामले में रिट याचिका (सिविल) संख्या 1994 का 725 और रिट याचिका (सिविल) संख्या 1985 का 4677 में अपने तारीख 12 दिसंबर 2003 के आदेश में कहा था कि भवन निर्माण से पर्यावरण को नुकसान होता है और इसलिए, ऐसी निर्माण परियोजनाओं को 1994 की उक्त अधिसूचना के दायरे में लाने पर विचार किया जा सकता है, इसलिए, उक्त अधिसूचना को संख्या का.आ. 801(अ), तारीख 7 जुलाई, 2004, द्वारा संशोधित किया गया था जिसके अंतर्गत भवन और प्रतिषेध परियोजनाओं की कुछ श्रेणियों को इसके दायरे में लाया गया था तथा पूर्व पर्यावरणीय मंजूरी को आवश्यक बनाया गया था;

और तत्पश्चात केन्द्रीय सरकार ने उक्त अधिसूचना को, संख्या का. आ. 1533 (अ), तारीख 14 सितम्बर, 2006 (जिसे इसमें इसके पश्चात ईआईई अधिसूचना कहा गया है) के अधीन अधिक्रमण कर दिया था, जिसमें अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ इसकी अनुसूची की मद 8 (क) और (ख) के अधीन आने वाली भवन और निर्माण परियोजनाओं तथा नगरी और क्षेत्र विकास परियोजनाओं पर कतिपय निर्बंधन और विनिर्माण लगाए गए थे तथा ऐसे किसी भी क्रियाकलाप के लिए पूर्व पर्यावरण मंजूरी को आवश्यक बनाया गया था;

और तत्पश्चात् केन्द्रीय सरकार ने पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) नियम, 1986 के नियम 5 के उप-नियम (3) के अधीन 11 सितम्बर, 2014 को एक प्रारूप अधिसूचना प्रकाशित की थी, जिसमें ईआईए अधिसूचना की अनुसूची में मद 8 (क) और (ख) तथा उससे संबंधित प्रविष्टियों के संबंध में संशोधन के लिए सभी संबंधितों से सुझाव और आपत्तियां आमंत्रित की गई थीं तथा प्रारूप अधिसूचना के संबंध में प्राप्त सभी सुझावों और आपत्तियों पर विचार करने और उन्हें सम्मिलित करने के पश्चात् संख्या का.आ. 3252 (अ), तारीख 22 दिसम्बर, 2014 के अधीन अंतिम अधिसूचना जारी की गई थी;

और केरल उच्च न्यायालय, एर्नाकुलम ने रिट याचिका (सिविल) संख्या 2016 की 3097 के मामले में अपने तारीख 6 मार्च 2024 के आदेश के अधीन 'वन अर्थ वन लाइफ बनाम पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय और अन्य' में 22 दिसंबर, 2014 की अधिसूचना को इस आधार पर रद्द कर दिया था कि अंतिम अधिसूचना प्रारूप अधिसूचना से अलग थी, हालांकि मंत्रालय को विधि के अनुसार एक नई अधिसूचना जारी करने की स्वतंत्रता प्रदान की गई थी;

और केरल उच्च न्यायालय के निर्णय के आलोक में, राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण ने मूल आवेदन संख्या 2024 का 93 में 9 अगस्त, 2024 के अपने आदेश के अधीन, अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय को ईआईए अधिसूचना की अनुसूची के मद 8 (क) और (ख) के संबंध में सामान्य शर्तों की प्रयोज्यता से संबंधित उपबंधों का अनुपालन करने या इस संबंध में स्पष्टीकरण अधिसूचना जारी करने का निर्देश दिया था;

और केरल उच्च न्यायालय के निर्णय और राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण के आदेश के मद्देनजर, विभिन्न भवन निर्माण परियोजनाओं के लिए पूर्व पर्यावरणीय मंजूरी की प्रयोज्यता के संबंध में उच्चतम न्यायालय के तारीख 12 दिसंबर 2003 के निर्णय का पालन करने के लिए एक नई अधिसूचना जारी करने की तत्काल आवश्यकता है

प्रारूप अधिसूचना उक्त अधिसूचना में संशोधन करने के लिए अधिसूचना संख्या का. आ. 4844 (अ) तारीख 7 नवम्बर, 2024 द्वारा भारत के राजपत्र, असाधारण, भाग 2, खण्ड 3, उपखण्ड (ii) में प्रकाशित की गई थी जिसमें उन सभी से जिनका उससे प्रभावित होना सम्भाव्य है, उस तारीख से, जिसको उक्त प्रारूप अधिसूचना में अन्तर्विष्ट राजपत्र की प्रतियां जनता को उपलब्ध कराई गई थी, साठ दिनों की अवधि के भीतर आक्षेप और सुझाव आमंत्रित किए गए थे।

और उक्त अधिसूचना की प्रतियां 7 नवंबर, 2024 को जनता को उपलब्ध करा दी गई थी।

और केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा, उक्त अधिसूचना के उत्तर में प्राप्त आक्षेपों और सुझावों पर साठ दिनों की अवधि के भीतर सम्यक रूप से विचार कर लिया गया है।

अतः अब केन्द्रीय सरकार, पर्यावरण संरक्षण नियम 1986 के नियम 5 के उप नियम (3) के साथ पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 (1986 का 29) की धारा 3 की उपधारा (1) और उपधारा (2) के खंड (v) द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए भारत सरकार के तत्कालीन पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय की अधिसूचना संख्या का.आ. 1533 (अ), तारीख 14 सितम्बर, 2006 में और निम्नलिखित संशोधन करती है, अर्थात:-

उक्त अधिसूचना की, अनुसूची में, मद 8 और उससे संबंधित प्रविष्टियों के स्थान पर, निम्नलिखित मद और प्रविष्टियों को रखा जाएगा, अर्थात:-

परियोजना या गतिविधि		सीमा रेखा वाली श्रेणी		शर्तें, यदि कोई हों
		क	ख	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
"8		भवन या संनिर्माण परियोजनाएं या नगरी और क्षेत्र विकास परियोजनाएं		
8(क)	भवन और संनिर्माण परियोजनाएं	> 20000 वर्ग मीटर और < 1,50,000 वर्ग मीटर निर्मित क्षेत्र	इस अधिसूचना के प्रयोजन के लिए "निर्मित क्षेत्र" को, सभी तलों पर इकट्ठे निर्मित या आच्छादित क्षेत्र के रूप में परिभाषित किया गया है जिसके अधीन बेसमेंट और अन्य सेवा क्षेत्र भी हैं जिनका भवन या संनिर्माण परियोजनाओं के लिए प्रस्ताव किया गया है।	टिप्पण1 .- परियोजना या कार्यकलापों में औद्योगिक शेड, विद्यालय, महाविद्यालय, शैक्षिक संस्थाओं, के लिए छात्रावास शामिल नहीं होंगे किंतु ऐसे भवन भरणीय पर्यावरणीय प्रबंधन, ठोस और द्रव अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन, वर्षा जल संरक्षण का सुनिश्चय करेंगे और वे पुनः चक्रित सामग्रियों जैसे भस्म ईटों का उपयोग कर सकेंगे।

				टिप्पण2 .- "सामान्य शर्तें "लागू नहीं होंगी।
8(ख)	नगरी और क्षेत्र विकास परियोजनाएं		जो >50 हेक्टेयर के क्षेत्र और या >1,50,000 वर्ग मीटर क्षेत्र को कवर कर रही हैं	इस मद के अधीन आने वाली नगरी और क्षेत्र विकास परियोजनाओं से पर्यावरण समाघात रिपोर्ट अपेक्षित होगी और उनका निर्धारण श्रेणी "ख1" परियोजना के रूप में किया जाएगा। टिप्पण.- साधारण शर्तें "लागू नहीं होंगी।"

[फा.सं.आईए3-3/46/2024- आईए.III]

रजत अग्रवाल, संयुक्त सचिव

टिप्पण: मूल अधिसूचना संख्या का.आ. 1533(अ), तारीख 14 सितंबर, 2006 द्वारा भारत के राजपत्र, असाधारण, भाग II, खंड 3, उप-खंड (ii) में प्रकाशित किए गए थे और इसमें अंतिम बार अधिसूचना संख्या का.आ. 2215(अ) तारीख 7 जून 2024 द्वारा संशोधन किया गया था।

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 29th January, 2025

S.O. 523(E).— WHEREAS the Government of India in the erstwhile Ministry of Environment and Forests *vide* its notification number S.O.60(E) dated the 27th January, 1994 imposed certain restrictions and prohibitions and requiring prior environmental clearance for undertaking any new project in any part of India or the expansion or modernisation of any existing industry or project covered in the notification;

AND WHEREAS the Supreme Court of India in its order dated the 12th December 2003 in WP (C) No. 725 of 1994 and WP (C) No. 4677 of 1985 in the matter of news item published in Hindustan Times titled "And Quiet Flows the Maily Yamuna" Vs Central Pollution Control Board and Others observed that building construction causes damage to the environment and, therefore, such construction projects may be considered to be brought within the purview of the said notification of 1994, hence, the said notification was amended *vide* number S.O 801(E), dated the 7th July, 2004 bringing within its purview certain categories of building and construction projects and requiring prior environmental clearance;

AND WHEREAS subsequently the Central Government superseded the said notification, *vide* number S.O. 1533 (E), dated the 14th September, 2006 (hereinafter referred to as the EIA Notification), *inter alia*, imposing certain restrictions and prohibitions on building and construction projects and township and area development projects covered under item 8 (a) and (b) of the Schedule thereof and required prior environment clearance for undertaking any such activities;

AND WHEREAS the Central Government under sub-rule (3) of rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, subsequently published a draft notification on the 11th September, 2014, inviting suggestions and objections of all concerned to the amendment in the Schedule of the EIA Notification in respect of items 8 (a) and (b) and the entries relating thereto and after considering and incorporating all the

suggestions and objections received in respect of the draft notification, made the final notification *vide* number S.O.3252(E) dated the 22nd December, 2014;

AND WHEREAS the High Court of Kerala, Ernakulam, *vide* its order dated the 6th March 2024, in the matter of WP (C) No. 3097 of 2016 titled One Earth One Life *vs.* the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Anr., quashed and set aside the notification dated the 22nd December, 2014 on the ground that the final notification was different from the draft notification while granting liberty to the Ministry to issue a fresh notification, in accordance with the law;

AND WHEREAS in the light of judgement of Kerala High Court, the National Green Tribunal, *vide* order dated the 9th August, 2024, in Original Application No. 93 of 2024, *inter alia*, directed the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to either comply with the provisions related to the applicability of General Conditions in respect of items 8 (a) and (b) of the Schedule to the EIA notification or to issue a clarificatory notification in this regard;

AND WHEREAS in view of the judgment of the Kerala High Court and the order of the National Green Tribunal, there is an urgent need to issue a fresh notification clarifying the issues for adhering to the judgement of the Supreme Court dated the 12th December, 2003 regarding applicability of prior environmental clearance for various building construction projects;

AND WHEREAS a draft notification for making amendments in the said notification was published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), *vide* number S.O. 4844(E), dated the 7th November, 2024, inviting objections and suggestions from all the persons likely to be affected thereby, within a period of sixty days from the date on which copies of the Gazette containing the said draft notification were made available to the Public;

AND WHEREAS copies of the said notification were made available to the public on the 7th November, 2024;

AND WHEREAS the objections and suggestions received in response to the said notification within the period of sixty days have been duly considered by the Central Government;

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) and clause (v) of sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986), read with sub-rule (3) of rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, the Central Government hereby makes the following further amendments in the notification of the Government of India in the erstwhile Ministry of Environment and Forests, number S.O.1533(E), dated the 14th September, 2006, namely:—

In the said notification, in the Schedule, for item 8 and the entries relating thereto, the following item and the entries shall be substituted, namely:—

Project or Activity		Category with threshold limit		Conditions if any
		A	B	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
“8	Building or Construction projects or Area Development Projects and Townships			
8(a)	Building and Construction projects		≥ 20,000 sq.m. and < 1,50,000 sq. m. of built up area	The term “built up area” for the purpose of this notification is defined as the built up or covered area on all floors put together, including its basement and other service areas, which are proposed in the building or construction projects. Note 1.— The projects or activities shall not include industrial shed, school, college, hostel for educational institution, but such buildings shall ensure sustainable environmental

				management, solid and liquid waste management, rain water harvesting and may use recycled materials such as fly ash bricks. Note 2.— General Conditions shall not apply.
8 (b)	Townships and Area Development Projects		Covering an area \geq 50 ha and/or built up area \geq 1,50,000 sq. m.	A project of Township and Area Development Projects covered under this item shall require an Environment Impact Assessment report and be appraised as Category 'B1' Project. Note. — General Conditions shall not apply.”.

[F.No. IA3-3/46/2024-IA. III]

RAJAT AGARWAL, Jt. Secy.

Note.-The principal notification was published in the Gazette of India, *vide* number S.O. 1533(E), dated the 14th September, 2006 and was last amended *vide* the notification number S.O. 2215(E) dated 7th June 2024.

File No. IA3-3/46/2024-IA.III [E239970]
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(IA Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110003

Dated: 30th January, 2025

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Clarification on the applicability of the Notification S.O. 523(E) dated 29th January, 2025 – regarding.

In view of the judgment of the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala, Ernakulam, dated 6th March 2024, in WP (C) No. 3097 of 2016 titled One Earth One Life vs. the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Anr., the Ministry following due process has issued final Notification vide S.O.523(E) dated 29th January, 2025.

2. The Ministry now deems it necessary to inform that the clarifications issued vide OMs dated 19th May, 2022 and 4th October, 2022, shall continue to apply in respect of the notification S.O. 523(E) dated 29th January, 2025. The clarifications shall also be applicable within the territorial jurisdiction of High Court of Kerala.

3. Further, it is clarified that the guidelines issued vide OM dated 9th June 2015, to be followed by the building projects to ensure sustainable environmental management, shall continue to apply in respect of the notification S.O.523(E) dated 29th January, 2025.

4. This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.


(Dr. J. D. Marcus Knight)
Scientist E

To

1. Chairman/Member Secretary, CPCB.
2. Chairperson/Member Secretaries of all the State/UT, PCBs/PCCs
3. Chairperson/Member Secretaries of all the EACs.
4. Chairperson/Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs/ SEACs.
5. All Officers of IA Division

Copy to:

1. PS to Hon'ble MEFCC
2. PS to Hon'ble MoS (EF&CC)
3. Sr PPS to Secretary (EF&CC)
4. Sr PPS to DGF&SS (EF&CC)
5. Sr PPS to AS(AG)/Sr PPS to JS(RA)
6. Website, MoEF&CC/Guard File

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s). 166/2025

VANASHAKTI

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 48655/2025 - STAY APPLICATION)

Date : 24-02-2025 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ABHAY S. OKA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE UJJAL BHUYAN

For Petitioner(s) :

Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Vanshdeep Dalmia, AOR
Ms. Anisha Jain, Adv.
Ms. Shambhavi Singh, Adv.
Mr. Don Mathew, Adv.
Ms. Ishita Choudhary, Adv.

For Respondent(s) :

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

Issue notice returnable on 28th March, 2025.

In the meanwhile, there will be stay of operation
and implementation of the impugned Notification dated 29th
January, 2025 (Annexure P-24) as well as Office
Memorandum dated 30th January, 2025 (Annexure P-25).